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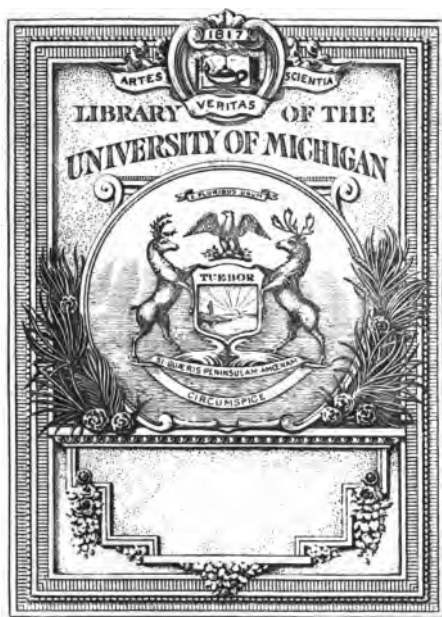
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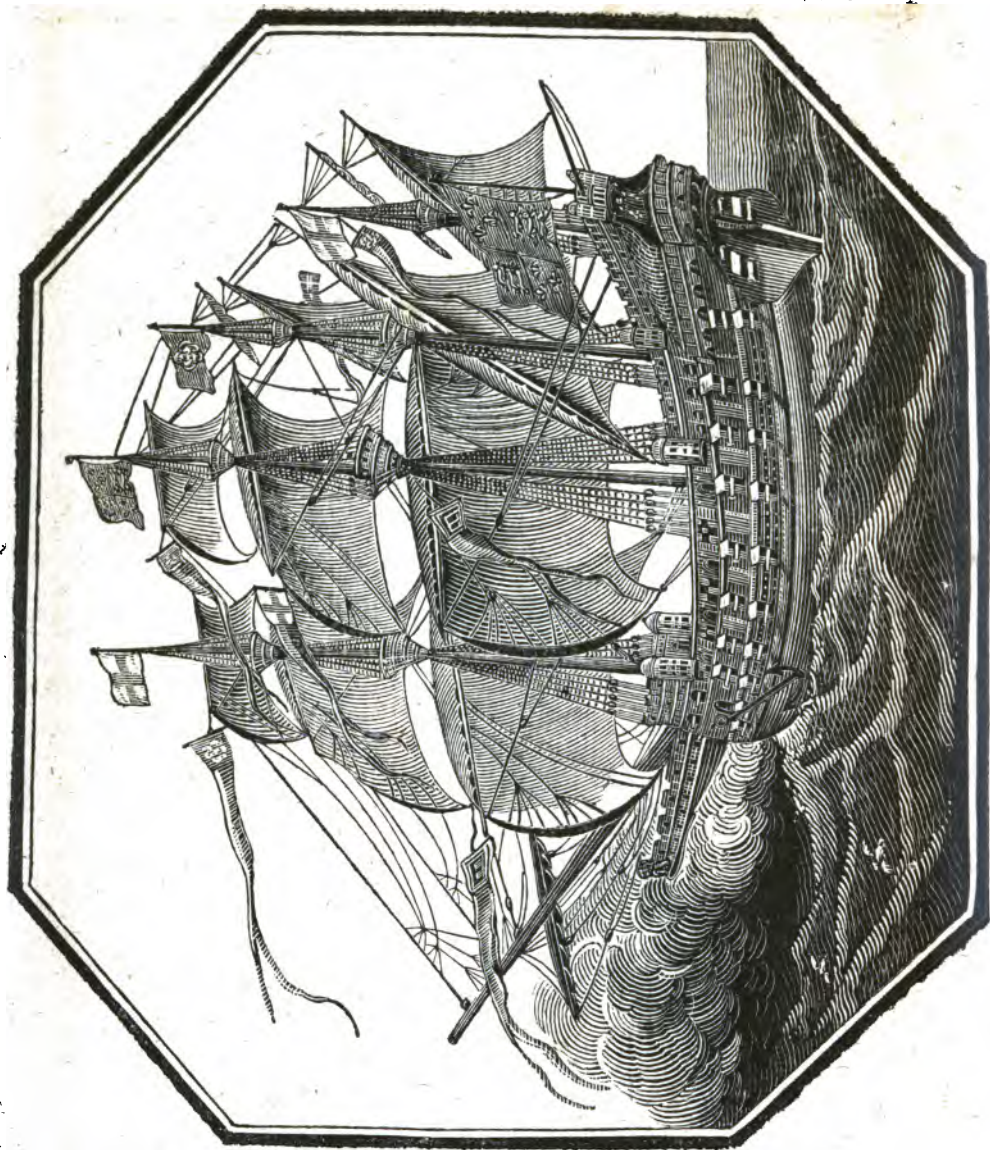
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**ADMIRABLE CURIOSITIES,
RARITIES, AND WONDERS,
IN
England, Scotland, and Ireland,**

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF
MANY REMARKABLE PERSONS AND PLACES;
AND LIKEWISE OF

**BATTLES, SIEGES, EARTHQUAKES,
INUNDATIONS, THUNDERS, LIGHTNINGS,**

Fires, Murders,
AND OTHER CONSIDERABLE OCCURRENCES AND ACCIDENTS,
FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS PAST.

WITH THE
**NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL RARITIES
IN EVERY COUNTY,**

And many other observable Passages;

**AS THEY ARE RECORDED BY CREDIBLE HISTORIANS OF FORMER
AND LATTER AGES.**

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**BY RICHARD BURTON.**  
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A NEW EDITION,
WITH ADDITIONAL WOOD-CUT PORTRAITS, AND A COPIOUS INDEX.

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ADMIRABLE CURIOSITIES, &c.

IN

GREAT BRITAIN

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BRTAIN has been accounted the greatest island in the world, it comprehends all those islands which lie about it, the length thereof from south to north, (that is, from the Lizard point in Cornwall, to the north of Scotland) in six hundred and twenty-four miles, and the breadth from the Land's End in Cornwall to the Isle of Thanet in Kent about three hundred miles; it is a country always temperate, and was highly esteemed by the Romans; for one of their orators calls it "The happy and most fortunate island, indued by nature with all the blessings of Heaven and Earth, wherein it is neither extreme cold in winter, nor scorching heat in summer, with long days and lightsome nights; and such abundance of grain, as suffices both for bread and wine; the woods are without wild beasts, the fields are without noisome serpents, abounding with vast numbers of milch beasts, and sheep weighed down with their own fleeces. Thus Alfred the poet of Beverly writ long since of Britain:

Insula predives, quæ toto vix eget orbe, &c.

A wealthy island which no help desires,
Yet all the world supply from her requires,
Able to glut King Solomon with pleasures,
And surfeit great Augustus with her treasures.

As to the name Britain there is no certainty of its origin; that which passed for current in former times, when most nations pretended

to be of Trojan race, was, that Brutus the son of Silvius, grand-child of Æneas, and third King of the Trojans, having unfortunately killed his father, fled from Italy with his followers, and after a long voyage, and many wanderings, fell upon this island, and conquered a race of giants, and having given it the name Britain left the sovereignty to his posterity, who enjoyed it till subdued by the Romans; but this tradition seems fabulous, since the Roman historians mention neither Brutus nor the giants, Cæsar telling us, that he found the Britons under many Kings, and never under one Prince but in time of danger; so it is more probably derived from Brit, which in British signifies painted, and Tain, a nation, because the ancient Britons used to paint their bodies to seem terrible to their enemies, whom the Romans called Picts, or painted men. Britain is now divided into, 1, England. 2, Wales. 3, Scotland. I shall now treat only of England, which has east the German, west the Irish, south the British ocean, and north the rivers of Tweed and Solway, and thereby parted from Scotland. It is environed with turbulent seas, guarded by inaccessible rocks, and preserved against foreign invasions by strong forts, and a puissant navy. The whole island was first called Albion, either from the story of a giant, or *Ab albis rupibus*, the white rocks towards France, which name continued till Egbert the first Saxon Monarch, who called the southern part of England, from the Angles, and when the Juits and Saxons conquered it, Pelagius being Bishop of Rome. Gregory seeing some beautiful children in the market-place of Rome to be sold, enquired what country they were of, who answered *Angli*, English men, and heathens; what pity is it, saith he, that the inhabitants being so fair, and angelical of countenance, should be subject to the Prince of Darkness; asking, what province they were of, they answered, *Deira*, a province in England then so called: these people, saith he, are to be delivered *De ira Dei*, from the wrath of God; and the name of one of these youths being Alle; they ought, saith he, to sing Allelujah to the living God. Upon this, Gregory was desirous to come and convert the heathens, but could not at that time, yet after Pelagius' death, being chosen Bishop of Rome, he sent Augustin with forty more preachers to undertake this work. This nation enjoys a soil equally fit for tillage or pasture; most of her other plenties and ornaments being expressed in this old verse.

Anglia Mons, Pons, Fons, Ecclesia, Fœmina, Lana.

For mountains, bridges, rivers, churches fair,
Women, and wool, England is past compare.

The Mountains lift up their lofty heads, and give a gallant prospect to the lower grounds; all having mines in their bowels, or are clothed with sheep or woods. The bridges are eight hundred and fifty-seven, the chief being Rochester Bridge over Medway, Bristol Bridge over Avon, and London Bridge over the Thames, of which a German poet thus truly speaks;

We saw so many woods, and princely bow'rs,
Sweet fields, brave palaces, and stately tow'rs,
So many gardens drest with curious care,
That Thames with royal Tyber may compare.

The churches before the suppression of the abbeys were exquisite. The women are generally handsome, without the adulteration of art. In an absolute women (say the Italians) are required the parts of a Dutch woman, from the girdle downwards; of a French woman from the girdle to the shoulders, over which must be placed an English face. As their beauties, so their prerogatives are greatest of any nation, neither so servilely submissive as the French, nor so jealously regarded as the Italian, but keeping so true a decorum, that as England is termed the purgatory of servants, and the hell for servants, so it is acknowledged a paradise of women: the Italians say, that if a bridge was built over the Narrow Seas, all the women of Europe would run into England; for here they have the upper hand in the streets, the upper place at table, the thirds of their husbands' estates, and an equal share in all lands; privileges other women are not acquainted with; they were highly esteemed formerly by foreigners for their modesty and gravity, but the women of this age are so addicted to the light garb of the French, that they have lost much of their-reputation abroad.

The wool is exceeding fine, of which is made excellent broad cloaths, dispersed over the world, to the great benefit of England, as well in return of much money as in setting to work many poor people.

Having gone through the method of the old verse, we will now look on the men, who are commonly of comely features and grey eyed, pleasant, bountiful, courteous; and resembling the Italians in habit and pronunciation. In war they are able to endure, and ready to undertake the hardest enterprize, and for courage are deservedly renowned abroad. King Edward III. and his son, carried their victorious arms through France. Henry VI. was crowned King at Paris. The Duke of Bedford was Regent of France, and being slain,

was buried in Roan, whose monument when Charles VIII. came to see, a nobleman advised him to raise it; nay, answered he, let him rest in peace being dead, of whom in war, whilst he lived, all France stood in fear. Marshall Biron said, he liked not the English march of the drum, because it was so slow. Sir Roger Williams, a gallant soldier, answered, that as slow as it was, yet it had gone through all France.

Our are our great English having the strongest at world. What ships do in 88. Drake, and after Cayendish, Esq. and three months the globe of the ard Greenville, Queen Eliza- against a navy This single ves- with in turns by great ships, great St. Philip prince of the tles, was one, knight sunk two and killed 1000 called by the



R. GREENVILL.

Don Richard of the Greenfield, and they fright their children with him. Our nation without vanity may assume the praise, considering its narrow limits, to have produced as many scholars, admirable in all degrees of knowledge, as any country on this side near the Alps, and received the christian faith, as some say, from St. Peter and Paul; and Lucius was the first Christian King in Europe. Among other worthy men, Jewel, Andrews, and Dr. Reynolds are famous; of the last the following account is remarkable: This John Reynolds had a brother named William, who was bred a protestant, and John was trained up in popery beyond sea; William, out of an honest zeal, to reduce his brother, made a journey to him; after a conference between them, it so fell out, that John being overcome by his brother's arguments returned into England, where he became a strict protestant, and

wooden walls security, the been accounted sea in the whole service did our Sir. Francis him Thomas in three years travelled about earth. Sir Rich- in a ship of beth's, fought of the Spaniards. sel being fought fifteen other whereof the of 1500 tons, twelve sea apos- yet this valiant of their best ships men. He is Spaniards still,

GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

William being convinced by the reasons of his brother John, staid beyond sea, where he proved a violent papist; of which strange accident, Dr. Althaster, who had tried both religions, made this ingenious epigram:

Bella inter geminos plusquam civilia fratres, &c.

In point of faith some undermin'd jars,
Between two brothers, kindled civil wars;
One for the churches' reformation stood;
The other thought no reformation good:
The points proposed, they traversed the field
With equal skill, and both together yield.
As they desired his brother each subdued,
Yet such their fate, that each his faith did lose;
Both captives, none the prisoners thence to guide,
The victor flying to the vanquish'd side.
Both joyed in being conquer'd (strange to say)
And yet both mourn'd because both won the day.

The government of England is monarchical, of a happy constitution, wherein the King hath his full prerogative, the nobles due respect, and the people among other blessings extremely happy in this, that they are masters of their own purses, and have a strong hand in making their own laws. Of all the seniorities in the world (saith P. Comines, the French historian) the realm of England is best governed, the people least oppressed, and the fewest houses and buildings destroyed in civil war. It is always temperate, the air thick, and subject to winds, rain, and dark clouds; therefore Gundamore, the Spanish ambassador to King James I. bid the Spanish post commend him to the sun, for he had not seen him here a great while, and in Spain he should be sure to find him. The ocean on the coast of this island, abounds with fish, and the meadows with corn, cattle, and other necessaries. A Spaniard boasting, that they had excellent oranges, lemons, and olives in their country, which ours wanted; Sir Roger Williams replied, it is true, they do not grow here, yet all this is but sauce; whereas we have dainty veal, and well-fed capons to eat with them; with many other delicate dishes worth the name of victuals indeed. There are more parks, forests, and chaces in England, than in all christendom beside, and in no place in the world greater and larger dogs, much in request by the Romans both for their baiting in their amphitheatres, and other huntings; the English cock is bold and stout, will fight valiantly with his adversary, and crows after the

victory, which seldom happens till death parts them. There are forty shires or counties in England, every shire consisting of so many hundreds, &c. and every hundred a number of boroughs, villages, or tythings, &c.

I shall now proceed to the natural and artificial rarities in every county, with remarks on persons, places, &c. Earthquakes, tempests, sieges, battles, and other occurrences, whereby my countrymen may observe, that there is hardly any thing worth wondering at abroad, whereof nature or art hath not written a copy at home. I shall not confine myself to methodize matters as to time, so as to let slip any thing considerable. I have placed the counties alphabetically for the ready finding of them.

BERKSHIRE.

(Whether so called from a stripped off, or bark-bared oak, is uncertain,) has Wiltshire, west; Hampshire, south; Surry, east; Oxford and Buckinghamshire, north. The air is temperate, the soil plentiful of corn, cattle, and woods, so that for profit and pleasure it gives place to none. Windsor Castle is a princely palace, both for strength and state, having a college for learning, a chapel for devotion, and an alms-house of decayed gentlemen for charity; it is said to be built by King Arthur, and William the Conqueror, by composition with the Abbot of Westminster, whose then it was, made it to be the King's possession. In this castle the victorious King Edward III. was born, and herein, after he had subdued the French and Scots, he kept at one time John King of France, and David King of Scots, prisoners; and graced it with the honourable order of the garter, the institution whereof some ascribe to a garter occasionally falling from the Countess of Salisbury; others say it was given in testimony of that bond of affection, wherewith the knights and fellows were bound one to another, and all of them to the King; nay, some make it yet more antient, relating that when King Richard I. warred against the Turks and Saracens, in the Holy Land, and that the tediousness thereof, began to discourage his soldiers, he tied about the legs of several knights, a garter or thong of leather, the only stuff he had at hand, that as the Romans used to bestow crowns and garlands for encouragement, so this might provoke them to fight valiantly for their King and honour. King Edward III. found a chapel erected in this castle by King Henry, with maintenance for eight canons, to whom he added a dean, fifteen canons, twenty-four poor knights, and other officers and

servants, to pray for the good estate of the sovereign and brethren of the most noble order; the sovereign and knights have their particular laws and constitutions, and King Edward appointed divers ceremonies, and distinct habits. St. George, the pattern of christianity and fortitude, is entitled to the patronage of this order, and the beautiful chapel in Windsor castle (where his day, being April 24, is usually celebrated and new knights installed) was consecrated by that King to his memory; there are of this order twenty-six knights, of which the King of England is one, and is so honourable, that eight emperors, twenty-one foreign Kings, twenty foreign Dukes, Princes, and Noblemen have been fellows of it. The ensign is a blue garter, buckled on the left leg, on which these words are introduced, *honi soit qui mal y pense*, evil be to him that evil thinks. About their necks they wear a blue ribband, at the end hangeth the image of St. George; the hall is remarkable for greatness, Winchester Tower for heights, and the terrace walk on the north side for pleasure; but King Charles II. added such magnificence to it both within and without, that now for grandeur, state, and pleasure, it exceeds any palace in Europe. The chapel is graced with the bodies of King Henry VI. and King Edward IV. and those whom the whole kingdom was too little to contain (the one being of the House of Lancaster, and the other of York) lie now united in one mould with the branch of both those houses, King Henry VIII. who lies there interred, and likewise King Charles I.

In the reign of King Henry VIII. 1544, Anthony Parsons, a priest, Robert Testwood, a singing man, and Henry Filmer, churchwarden, who had articulated against their superstitious vicar, were all burnt at Windsor; when Parsons was fastened to the stake, he laid a great deal of straw on the top of his head, saying, this is God's hat, I am now armed like a soldier of Christ. Robert Testwood was condemned for dissuading the people from pilgrimages; for walking in Windsor Chapel, he saw multitudes of pilgrims flocking out of Devonshire and Cornwall, with candles to offer at the shrine of King Henry, at Windsor; Testwood's spirit was moved at this idolatry, and exhorted them to leave that false worship performed to dumb images, and worship the living God; shewing them how God plagued his own people, the Jews, for going a whoring after such stocks and stones, and would plague them and their posterities if they did not reform; this so prevailed, that some said, They would never go on pilgrimages again; another company were licking and kissing a white lady of alabaster behind the high altar, rubbing their hands upon it, and then stroking their heads and faces, which so provoked him, that with a key in

his hand he struck off a piece of the image's nose, saying, see good people, this is nothing but a piece of earth, that cannot help itself, how is it then like to help you? When these three were burning, King Henry VIII. came by the place, and hearing of their christian patience and death, turning his horse, said, Alas poor innocents! a better speech for a private person than a prince, who is bound not only to pity but to protect oppressed innocence; however on this occasion other persecuted people were pardoned and preserved.

There is a proverb in this country, "That the Vicar of Bray will be Vicar of Bray still." Bray is a village of this Shire, and the antient vicar thereof living under King Henry VIII. King VI. Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, was at first a papist, then a protestant, then a papist, and then a protestant again; he had seen some parties burnt two miles off, at Windsor, and found the fire too hot for their tender temple; and being taxed by one for being a turncoat, No, said he, that is your mistake, for I always keep my principle, which is, to live and die the Vicar of Bray; and there are some still of this saving principle, who though they cannot turn the wind, will turn their mills, so that whatever it bloweth, their grist will be sure to be ground.

In 1100, at Finchamstead, a well boiled up with streams of blood for fifteen days, and the waters discoloured all others where they came, and great flames of fire were seen in divers places. In 1348 was a great plague all over Europe; and Wallingford being a more considerable town than now it is, was almost dispeopled. In 1237, Cardinal Ottobond came as Legate from the Pope to King Henry V. and lying at Ostly Abby, there happened a difference between his servants and the scholars at Oxford, in which a brother of his was slain, and the legate got into a steeple, till the King's officers coming from Abingdon, conveyed him to Wallingford, after which the cardinal cursed the scholars and the university, so that the colleges grew desolate, and the students were dispersed for half a year, till the monks and masters of the University were forced to go barefoot and bare headed a great way to the legate's lodgings, and upon their submission, and great men's intercession, were absolved, and the University was restored to its former estate, such was the pride of the superior, and the base spiritedness of the inferior clergy in those days of popery and slavery. In 1431, certain lewd persons began an insurrection at Abingdon, for which the chief author, one Mundeville, a weaver, was hanged. In 1647, several enthusiastic women at Newbury, pretended to divine revelations and dreams, wherein glorious

thing were discovered to them, and the chief of them had astonishing gestures and fits, and declared she had a revelation that such a night she should be taken up into Heaven, at which time many of her deluded followers assembled, and took their solemn leave of her with tears, and the hour being come, out they go to see her ascension; it was a moonshine night, and, as they expected an angel to fetch her up in a chariot, a cloud covering the moon, they all cried out, "Behold he comes in the clouds," but the cloud soon vanished, and their hopes frustrated; after awhile comes a flock of wild geese, upon which they again cry out, "He comes, he comes;" but when the wild geese were gone, they were fain at length to return home as wise as they came, having made themselves ridiculous to the spectators.

Reading is the chief town in this shire. It is divided into twenty hundreds, hath twelve market towns, one hundred and forty parishes, and out of it are elected nine parliament men. Eaton adjoins to Windsor, by a bridge over the Thames, wherein is a fair college and a famous school founded by King Henry VI. in which, besides the provost, eight fellows, and the singing choristers, there are sixty scholars instructed in grammar, and in time preferred to the University of Cambridge.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Hath Northampton, north; Huntingdon and Cambridge, east; Hertford, south; and Buckingham, west. In 1399, before the wars of Lancaster and York, on New-years-day, the deep river between Snelstone and Harwood, two villages near Bedford town, called Ouse, stood still, and divided itself, so that for three miles, the bottom remained dry, and backwards the waters swelled to a great height, which wonder was thought to presage the division of the people and King: and in a little town in this county it rained blood, the drops appearing in sheets hung out to dry. In 1580, there fell such rains in September and October as caused floods in divers places; in Newport, cottages were borne down, and the corn lost; in Bedford water came up to the market-place, household stuff swam about the houses, wood, corn, and hay were carried away; and at St. Need's in Huntingdonshire, while the inhabitants were in bed, the waters brake in with such violence that the town was defaced, and swans swam down the market-place; Godmanchester was also overthrown and the castle destroyed. At St. Need's, in King Henry VII's. time, there fell hail stones eighteen inches about. At Aspy near Woburn in a little rivulet, the earth

whereof turned wood into stone, and a ladder which was once wood, was dug out all stone, was to be seen in a monastery hard by: take the strange operation of it from the poet.

The brook that on her bank does boast that earth alone
(Much rooted in this isle) converteth wood to stone.
This little Asply's earth we anciently instile,
Amongst sundry other things, a wonder of the isle.

In 1507, Thomas Chase, a zealous opposer of popery, was brought before the Bishop at Wooburn, who proposed divers questions to him, intermixed with reproaches. Chase defended the truth boldly, for which he was committed to the Bishop's prison, so called Little Ease, manacled with fetters, and almost starved, which not prevailing, was more severely used, and at length privately murdered for fear of an uproar, the Bishop ordering him to be prest to death, he calling upon God to receive his spirit, and then reporting he had hanged himself in prison. In 1506, William Tilsworth was condemned by the Bishop of Lincoln, and burnt in this county; at his burning, his only daughter, a religious woman, was compelled to set fire to her dear father; and John Clark her husband, with many others did penance by bearing faggots, and were burnt in the cheek with an hot iron: Thomas Bernard and James Melvin, labourers, were both burnt for religion, in this shire.

The chief town is Bedford, pleasantly seated: without the town there formerly stood a chapel upon the river Ouse, where the body of Offa the great Mercian King was interred; but by the over swelling of that river was swallowed up, whose tomb of Lead, (as if it were some phantastical thing) appears to them that sought it not, but to them that seek it (saith Ross) it is invisible. In the reign of King Henry III. while a parliament was setting at Northampton, an outrage was committed by one Falcacius, who seized upon Henry Braybrook a judge, upon the bench at the assizes at Dunstable, and clapped him prisoner in Bedford castle, because thirty verdicts had passed against him upon trials at law for lands which he had forcibly entered upon; the judge's wife came to the parliament, and with her tears and complaints, so moved them that all other matters laid aside. The clergy as well as laity attended the King to besiege the castle; Falcacius the governor was gone into Wales to raise more forces to maintain his rebellion, leaving his brother lieutenant with a desperate crew of villains, and ammunition and provision for a year's siege; yet after two months it was taken by

storm, the lieutenant and all his companions hanged, and the castle pulled down to the ground, as a den of thieves, to deter others. This Falcacius was a Frenchman born, and a bastard, and came over in King John's time very mean, by whom for his courage he was made governor of Bedford castle, against the barons, where by rapine he got much money, King John forcing a ~~Wife~~ a great heiress, to marry him; when this castle was levelled to the earth, and his estates seized, he prevails with the Bishop of Exeter (to bring him to the King at Bedford, where throwing himself at his feet, he employs mercy for his former good services, which he obtained, upon condition to be perpetually banished; and the King was so incensed at the keeping of this castle against him, that he commanded all Frenchmen to depart under a severe penalty. In 1565, Henry Cheney, high sheriff of Bedfordshire, was created Baron of Tuddington, in his youth he was wild and venturesome; witness his playing at dice with Henry II. King of France, from whom he won a diamond of great worth at a cast, and being asked by the King how he would have done if he had lost, I have (said he in a huffing bravery) sheep's tails enough in Kent, (where he had an estate, with their wool, to buy a better diamond than this. In his latter age he was much reduced, dying without issue.

Dunstable is seated in a chalky ground, well inhabited, and full of inns, hath four streets, and in every one a pond of water for the use of the inhabitants; it is reported to be built to bridle the outrages of a thief called Dun, by King Henry I. but certain it is, that the place was held by the Romans; yet Sir John Heyward saith, Dun was a famous thief, and a commander over the rest, and of him it was called Dunstable. This county is divided into nine hundreds, wherein are two market towns, and one hundred and sixteen parish churches, and elects four parliament men.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Hath east, Hertford and Bedford; west, Oxford; north, Northampton and Huntingdon; and south, Herefordshire; so named from the plenty of beech trees, which the Saxons called Bucken, with which it was formerly so over-run, that it became a refuge for robbers, and occasioned that proverb in this country, "here a bush, and there a thief." In 1665, January 20th, about six at night, was an earthquake in some parts of Buckinghamshire, with an unusual noise in their air, but it

was quickly over; it much frightened the people to feel their chairs and stools quake under them, and to hear tables clatter in the rooms, and the whole house to shake. King William I. gave a manor and certain lands in Buckinghamshire on condition, that the possessor should find straw or litter for the King's bed when he came that way; which shews the alteration of grandeur since that time. The best and largest sheep in England are in the vale of Aylesbury, where ten pound or more is given for a breed-ram, so that a foreigner by the price would guess it to be rather some engine or battery, than the creature so called. Foreigners admire that our English sheep do not, as in other countries, follow their shepherds like a pack of dogs, but wander all abroad; and the popish priests tell their ignorant folks, that this disobedience happens, because we have left our great shepherd the Pope, a very profound reason; whereas our sheep did the same long before our separation from Rome; for being freed from the fear of wolves, which devour their flocks beyond sea, they feed safely in their fields, wanting neither guide to direct nor guard to defend them. Roger Wendover was born at Wendover, bred a Benedictine at St. Albans, and was the

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M. PARIS.

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Temple, was

born at Latimers, she had four sons and nine daughters, who lived to

be so exceedingly married, and multiplied, that she saw seven hundred extracted from her own body; Vives tells of a village in Spain of one hundred houses, whereof all the inhabitants issued from one old man; and says, the Spanish language did not afford a name whereby the youngest should call the oldest, since they could not go above the great grand father's father. Had the offspring of this lady been contracted into one place, they were enough to have peopled a large city; this lady died in 1656. Sir Edward Cook, that famous lawyer, was born in this shire. One time a parliament was called, and the court-party being jealous of his activity against them, as not having digested the discontent he had received from thence; to prevent which, and confine him to his country, he was pricked sheriff, he thereupon scrupled to take the oath, alledging, that the sheriff is bound thereby to prosecute lollards, wherein the best christians may be included; but no excuses would serve, he must serve the office, yet his friends thought it an injurious degradation for a Lord Chief Justice to attend on the judges at the assizes.

Buckingham is in the shire town seated upon the River Ouse, it had formerly ramparts, and a strong castle on a high hill, whereof nothing now remains but some small signs of such a place. It is divided into eight hundreds, wherein are fifteen market towns, one hundred and eighty-five parish churches, and elects four parliament men.

CAMBRIDGE

Hath north, Lincoln and Norfolk; east, Norfolk and Suffolk; south, Hertford and Essex; and west, Bedford and Huntingdon; so named from the River Cam, which divides it in the midst; upon the east bank stands the famous University, from whence for many hundred years have issued the streams of learned sciences. It is ancient indeed if built by one Cantabria a Spaniard, three hundred and seventy-five years before our Saviour: it was formerly called Grantchester, and in Bede's time, about seven hundred years after Christ, was laid in ruins by the tyranny of the times, and is described as a little desolate city without inhabitants, or any memory of its being encompassed with walls; the monk of Burton reports, that in the year 141, nine students received baptism, and became preachers of the gospel, among the Britons, in the time of Adrian the Emperor; but when the Picts, Scots, Huns, and Saxons, had laid all waste, and with their savage swords cut out the leaves of all civil learning, this town as the rest fell to

destruction and lay forlorn, till the Saxons became civilized, when Sigibert the first christian King of the East-Angles, by the example of France, whither he had been banished, built schools, and here at Grantchester or Cambridge the chief, recalling hither the professors of arts and sciences; who began so to increase, that the place grew too little for the students; and therefore enlarging more northward, they seated themselves near the bridge, upon which it was called Grant-bridge, and afterward Cambridge. It was again much damaged by the Danes, but after the Norman conquest, three monks resorted to this place, and in the reign of Henry I. read lectures in a barn, in grammar, logic, rhetoric, &c. and one Gislebert read divinity upon the Lord's and other festival days; from this little fountain grew a great river, which made all England fruitful. The first college endowed was Peter House, built by the Bishop of Ely 1284, whose worthy example others followed, so that now there are sixteen colleges and halls, which for building, beauty, endowments, and number of students, exceed any in Europe, except her sister Oxford. By King Edward I. of a school Cambridge was made an university, in whose reign a great part of the town, and the church of St. Mary's was burnt. In 1626, a codfish was brought to the market in Cambridge for sale, in the maw was found a book bound up in canvas, being several treatises of Mr. John Frith's: this fish was caught upon the coast of Lin, and being cut open, the garbage was thrown by, which a woman looking upon espied the canvas, and taking it out, found the book wrapped in it, much soiled and covered over with slime; this was looked on with admiration, and the vice-chancellor, examining the particulars, the leaves being opened and cleansed, these treatises contained in it, "A preparation for the cross. A preparation for death. The treasure of knowledge, A mirour or looking-glass to know ourselves by. A brief instruction to teach one willingly to die." They were all reprinted, and how useful the reviving of them by such a special providence was, may be discerned by such as lived since those times. In 1640, in Cambridge the River Cam became red as blood, and the water being taken up in basons, retained the same colour; and many strange sights were seen in the air, as armies fighting, &c. all sad presages of ensuing troubles.

Ely, a city in this country, was famous for a nunnery, founded by Audrey, wife to Tombret, a prince in this province, who had it as part of her dowry, and after his death marrying with a king of Northumberland, she left her husband and the rights of marriage; built this nunnery, and became herself first abbess thereof. This by the

Danes was destroyed, and first rebuilt by Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, who stored it with monks, to whom King Edgar granted four hundreds and half within these fens, which to this day are called Liberties of St. Audrey; after whose example many nobles so enriched it with revenues, that the Abbot laid up yearly £1400. and the monks repaired their old church, which now is the cathedral. Ely Minster presents itself afar off to the eye of the traveller, and not only promises, but gives earnest of the magnificence thereof. The lanthorn built by B. Hotham, wherein the labour of twenty years, and £5,000. was expended, is a master-piece of architecture; when the bells ring, the wood-work shakes and gapes, which is no defect, but the perfection of architecture, and exactly falleth into the joints again. Rare also is the art in the chapel of St. Mary's, and the other of Bishop West, wherein the master-masons in King James the First's time, found finer stone-work than in King Henry's the Seventh's Chapel at Westminster. In 1190, King Richard the First went into the Holy Land, and left in chief authority William Longshamp, Bishop of Ely, whose pride was unsufferable, seldom riding abroad without 500 or 1000 men in his train, not for safety but state, and though others were left in power besides, yet he made cyphers of them, ruling all as he pleased. This insolence caused some to hold for, and others against him, the kingdom was in danger to be rent asunder; at last the bishop finding he was too weak for his enemies, disguised himself in woman's apparel, and carrying a piece of linen cloth under his arm, designed to go beyond sea; but being discovered, the women in revenge of the abuse done to their cloaths in making them the instrument of his deceit, fell upon him so foully as might have beaten humility into him ever after. This disgrace made him get into France, his native country, to sue to the King for reparation.

Edward Norgate, Son of Dr. Norgate, was born in Cambridge, and being judicious in pictures, was employed in Italy by the Earl of Arundel; returning by Marseilles, he missed the money he expected, and being unknown, he was observed by a French gentleman to walk in the Exchange of that city many hours, morning and evening, with swift feet and sad face, forward and backward; to him the civil monsieur addressed himself, desiring to know the cause of his discontent, and promised, if it were in his power, to help him with his best advice and assistance. Norgate told him his condition, to which the other answered, pray Sir, take my council, I have taken notice that you have walked at least 10 miles a day upwards and downwards, which if it had been spent in going forward, would in a few days

X have brought you into your native country. I will, if you please, furnish you with a light habit, and a competent sum of money for a footman, to enable you to walk home. Norgate cheerfully consented, and being accommodated, accordingly footed it through France, above 500 English miles, and so with ease and safety returned into England; he afterward became the best limner in our age, was an excellent herald, and a right honest man, he died in 1649. I may here insert (says Dr. Fuller) an artificial wonder, of what is called the Devil's Ditch; people conceiting it was made by the Devil, whereas it was the work of some king of the East Angles; posterity being so far from imitating the industry of their ancestors, that they even libel their pains as hellish achievements; probably it was made to divide and defend their dominions from the King of Mercia, or to keep the people in employment, and divert mutinous thoughts; this country by reason of the fens, hath but sickly air; the soil yields good barley and saffron, the herb called scordium, or water germander, grows plentifully, of which diascordium is made. About the fens, water fowl is so cheap, that five men may be well satisfied with it for less than an half-penny. When they mow their grass in the fens, they set fire on the rest in November, that it may come up again in abundance, This county hath seventeen hundreds, eight market towns, 163 parishes, and elects six parliament men.

CHESHIRE

Hath Lancashire, north; Denby Flint; and the Irish Ocean, west; Derby and Stafford, east, and Shropshire, south. It produces the best cheese; also mill-stones, fish, fowl, and all sorts of cattle. King Richard II. made it a principality. The City of Chester, in the days of King Edgar, was in a very flourishing condition, he having the homage of eight other Kings, who rowed his barge from St. John's to his palace, himself holding the helm as their supreme. A bridge is built over the River Dee, upon eight arches; at either end is a gate, from whence the wall encompasses the city, high and strongly built, with four gates, three posterns, and seven watch towers. It is reported, that there is a pool adjoining to Brereton, the seat of that honorable family, wherein bodies of trees are seen to swim certain days before the death of any heir of that house, and after they are never seen till the next occasion; many fig-trees are found under ground near the River Weaver, which the people imagine have been buried there ever since

X Noah's Flood; they cut pieces of such wood small, and use them for candles, which give a good light: the author adds, that such wooden candles have long snuffs, and yet (which is indeed a wonder) in falling down do no harm, though they drop into tow, flax, or the like; yet let not this encourage careless servants, since this country has been sadly sensible of fire, Nantwich, a market town, being twice burnt to the ground in 150 years. In July 8, 1657, in the parish of Bickly, about three in the afternoon, a noise was heard like thunder afar off, which was wondered at, because the sky was clear; soon after (says the author) a neighbour came and told me, if I would go with him I should see a strange thing; so coming into the field, called the Lay Field, we found a great bank of earth, which had tall oaks growing on it, now quite sunk under ground, trees and all; at first we durst not go near it, because the earth, for near twenty yards about, was much rent, and ready to fall in; but since (saith he) myself and others by ropes have ventured to look down, and saw water at the bottom, about thirty yards from us, under which the earth is sunk for sixteen yards round, with three or four tall oaks, and other small trees, and not a sprig to be seen above the water; four or five oaks more were expected to fall with a great quantity of land, it never ceasing more or less, and when a great clod fell, it was like the report of a cannon; we could discern the ground hollow above the water, but how far deep is not to be found out by man. The water was salt like that of the sea, and probably issues from those salt springs about Nantwich, and other places in the county; may we not also judge that those trees digged up thereabouts, were buried by some such accident as this. July 30, 1663, was a tempestuous day in many parts of Cheshire and Lancashire. At Ormskirk was such a storm of hail as broke all their windows, and much hurt their corn, one hail-stone, after it was wasted, was four inches about, others larger. The same day in the Forest of Maxfield, arose a pillar of smoke, in height like a steeple, and judged twenty yards broad, which making a hideous noise, moved along the ground six or seven miles, levelling all in its way; it threw down fences and stone walls, and carried the stones a great distance, but happening upon moorish ground not inhabited, did the less hurt; the terrible noise it made so affrighted the cattle, that they ran away, and were preserved; it passed over a corn field, and laid all even with the ground; it went through a wood, and turned up above 100 trees by the roots; in a field full of cocks of hay it swept all away, so that scarce a handful could be found, it left a great tree in the middle of the field, brought from some other place. From the Forest of Maxfield, it went up by Taxal to Waily

Bridge, where it overthrew an house or two, yet the people received not much hurt, but the timber was carried nobody knew where; from thence it went up the hills into Derbyshire, and so vanished.

Dr. William Nedham, a learned physician, in a discourse on anatomy, give this relation of a child that cried in its mother's womb: a long time, said he, I could scarce believe there were such cryings, till I was informed of this by a noble lady in Cheshire. As this honorable person sat in the dining room with her husband, their domestic chaplain, and others, she was sensible of an extraordinary stirring in her belly, which so lifted up her cloaths that it was discernable to those present (she was then with child and in her seventh month) when upon a sudden a voice was heard, but from whence they were not able to conjecture, not suspecting the embryo in her womb; soon after they perceived the belly and garments of the lady to have a second notable motion, and heard a cry as if it proceeded from thence; while they were amazed at what had passed, and discoursing of this prodigy, all that before had happened did a third time so manifestly appear, that (being now more attentive) they doubted not but the cry came from her womb. The Girl that was so talkative in the womb of her mother, lived many years. There is a proverb of this county, "Cheshire, chief of men," which must not carry a challenge with it as ingrossing manhood, for then the men of Kent will undertake these chief of men, and another proverb will cross this, "That no man is so good, but another may be as good as he:" indeed the Cestrians have behaved themselves valiantly, and King Richard II. in dangerous times sent for 2000 Cheshire men, all archers, to attend him; which number, in time of suspicious parliaments, was doubled by him, all of them being allowed bread and beer, and six-pence a day, which was large wages in those days: a pity it was, that the valour of these Cheshire men were once wasted against themselves in a battle betwixt King Henry IV. and Henry Percy, named Hotspur, thus described by Mr. Drayton, alluding to the names of several considerable families:

There Dutton, Dutton kills; a Done doth kill Done;
 A Booth, a Booth; and Leigh by Leigh is overthrown.
 A Venables against a Venables doth stand,
 And Troutbeck fighteth with a Troutbeck hand to hand.
 There Molineaux doth make a Molineaux to die,
 And Egerton the strength of Egerton doth try.
 Oh! Cheshire, wert thou mad? of thine own native gore,
 So much until this day thou never shed'st before.

This county hath seven hundreds, thirteen market towns, sixteen churches, and thirty-eight chapels of ease, and elects four parliament men.

CORNWALL,

X So called partly from its form, and partly from the people, for shooting itself into the sea like an horn, which the Britons called Kern, and inhabited by those whom the Saxons called Wallia, of these two words it became Cornwallia. It is fabled, that Corineus, cousin to King Brute, had this county given him for his valour in wrestling with the giant Gogmagog, and breaking his neck from Dover Cliff. It hath Devon, west; divided by the River Tamer, with the sea on all other sides, affording plenty of harbours, so that foreigners in passing to and from Spain, Ireland, the Levant, East or West Indies, often touch here, and sometimes are driven here against their will, but never without profit to the inhabitants, according to the proverb, "Where the horse lieth down, there some hairs will be found." Cornish and Devonshire men are active in wrestling, and such boisterous exercises, being stout and able of body. One Kilter laying upon his back in Lancelston Castlegreen, threw a stone of some pounds weight over the top of an high tower of that castle; and John Romane, a thick short fellow, would carry the whole carcase of an ox. John Bray carried at once a considerable space, six bushel of meal, reckoning fifteen gallon to the bushel. Camden observes, that the western people, of most countries are the tallest and stoutest, and it is certain that the eastern people of the world, the Chinese, are the most effeminate and unwarlike; it is also observed, that rocky mountainous places breed warlike tall people, as the Highlanders, Switzers, Grisons, &c.

Mr. Carew in his Survey of Cornwall, assures us that ninety years of age is ordinary in every place, and in most with an able use of their body and senses; one Polzew reached to 130, a kinsman of his to 112, one Beauchamp to 106, and in the parish where himself dwelt, he remembered the decease of four in fourteen weeks, whose years added together, made up 340. The same gentleman made this epitaph upon one Brawn an Irishman, but a Cornish beggar;

Here Brawn the quondam beggar lies,
Who counted by his tale,
Some six-score winters and above,
Such virtue is in ale.

Ale was his meat, his drink, his cloth,
 His physic too beside;
 And could he still have drank his ale,
 Be sure he had not dy'd.

And one Chamond, at Stratton, in this county, was uncle and great uncle to 300. There was within these hundred years; one Atwell, parson of St. Tues, in Cornwall, who practised physic, but so strange was his method, that though he used letting blood and cordials, yet for all diseases he chiefly prescribed milk, and often milk and apples, by which he performed many desperate cures, and got great reputation; but it is doubted, whether Mr. Atwel's physic, or the pure air of Cornwall did the work. This county abounds with pilchards; copper and tin grows plentifully in the utmost part of it, that at low water the veins lie bare; and in the reigns of Edward I. and II. silver was found in this shire, to the great profit of those princes, nay, tanners now find little quantities of gold and silver among the tin ore. Diamonds are found in many places cleaving to the rocks, out of which the tin is dug; they are smooth, square, and pointed by nature, their size is from a pea to a walnut. The tanners often dig up huge trees at the bottom of the mines, which they think were buried ever since the flood, also pick-axes of holm, box, and hartshorn, and small tool-heads of brass, and once a brass coin of the Emperor Domitian, an argument the Romans formerly wrought in them. These mines are discovered by certain flint stones round and smooth, lying on the ground; but if we believe reports, there is a more easy way, and that is by dreams, by which it is said, works of great value have been found; as in King Edward Vith. time, a gentlewoman, heiress to one Treseuliard, dreamed that a handsome man told her, that in such a tenement of her land she should find tin enough to enrich herself and posterity; her husband upon trial, found a tin work there, which in four years was worth to him almost £4,000. and that one Trapel of St. Niot, by a dream of his daughter's, was wished to such a place, which he farmed, and there he found a tin work that made him a rich man; which stories, if true, much credit women's dreams.

From the bottom of the tin works of great depth, you may see the stars at noon in clear weather; the labour is so hard, that they cannot work above four hours in a day, sometimes meeting with loose earth, otherwise with such hard rock, that a good workman can scarce hew above a foot in a week; sometimes again they meet with great streams

of water, and stinking dampes that distemper their heads, though no dangerously.

I hear of no medical water in this county, but one mentioned by Bishop Hall in his *Mystery of Godliness*, in speaking of the good offices of angels to God's servants. Of this kind, said he, was that miraculous cure, which at St. Maderns in Cornwall, was wrought upon a poor cripple, whereof, besides the attestation of many hundred of the neighbours, I took a strict and impartial examination in my last visitation : this man for sixteen years together, was fain to walk upon his hands by reason of the sinews of his legs being contracted, and upon motions in his dream, to wash in that well, was suddenly so restored to his limbs, that I saw him both able to walk and get his own maintenance. I found here was neither art nor collusion in the thing done, the Invisible author being God.

In the county are stones called Hurlers, at a distance from each other, vainly said to be men turned to stone, which, like those on Salisbury Plain, will be mistaken in the telling. Near Helford is a rock on the ground, the top is hollow like the half of an egg, this they say holds water, which ebbs and flows with the sea ; indeed says our author, when I came to see this curiosity, the tide was half gone, and the pit of hollowness halfempty. There is a rock in this county called Mainamber, erected by Ambrosius, the valiant Briton, upon a victory obtained against the Romans ; this is a master-piece of mathematics and critical proportions, being a great stone of so exact a position on the top of a rock, that the push of a finger will sensibly move it to and fro, and yet all the strength that men could make, was not sufficient to remove it out of its place : but, says Dr. Fuller, this wonder is now unwondered, for I am credibly informed, some soldiers lately destroyed it ; so dangerous is art to stand in the way of ignorance ; surely covetousness could not tempt them to it, though it was the ruin of a monument in Turkey, where a tomb was erected near the highway (according to the fashion of that country) over some persons of quality, consisting of a pillar, on the top of a chapter or globe of stone, whereon was written in Turkish, "The brains are in the head ;" this stood many years undemolished, it being criminal to violate the monuments of the dead, till one of less conscience, but more cunning than others ; passing by, resolved to unriddle the inscription, and breaking the hollow globe, found it full of gold, and departed the richer, but not honest ; certainly if any such temptation invited the soldiers to this act, they missed their mark therein. At Hail, near Foy, is a faggot all of one piece of wood, naturally grown so ; it is wrapped about the middle

with a band, and parted at the ends into four sticks, one of which is divided into two others. In Lanbadron Park, an oak bears leaves speckled and white, and so doth another called painters oak; it is certain, saith our author, that divers antient families in England are fore-warned of their deaths by oaks bearing strange leaves. An earthen pot was found near Foy, gilded and graven with letters, in a stone chest, full of brick earth, the ashes it is thought of some Roman.

At Trematon, in the chancel of the church, a leaden coffin was dug up, in which was found the proportion of a large man's body, but being touched it turned to dust. It was thought to be the body of Duke Orgdatus, who married his daughter to King Edgar, by an inscription on the coffin, that signified it was the body of a duke, whose heiress was married to a prince. An exceeding great carcass of a man was found by the tanners, at a village near the Lands-end, called Trebegean. There is a story of St. Kain's Well, that whoever drinks first of this water, whether husband or wife, they are sure to get the mastery; a fit fable for the vulgar to believe. In the west parts of Cornwall, during the winter, swallows are found in old deep tin works, and holes of the sea cliffs. On the shore of this shire, about forty years ago, a huge mass of ambergreese was found by a poor fisherman, of great value. King Arthur, son to Uterpendragon, was born at Tintagel Castle, and was monarch of Britain; he may be termed the British Hercules. 1. For his illegitimate birth, both being bastards, begotten on other men's wives, and yet their mothers honest women; both deluded by art magic, the last by Merlin, other men coming to them in the form of their husbands. 2. In his painful life, one being famous for his twelve labours, and the other for his twelve victories against the Saxons, and both had been greater, had they been made less, and the report of them reduced within the compass of probability. 3. In their violent and painful deaths, our Arthur's being as lamentable, and more honourable, not by feminine jealousy, but masculine treachery, being murdered near the place where he was born:

As tho' no other place, on Britain's spacious earth,
Were worthy of his end, but where he had his birth:

As for his round table, and his knights about it, the table never met with much credit among the judicious. The Cornish-men are generally valiant, and King Arthur made them his vanguard, as appears by these verses:

Brave Arthur when he meant a field to fight,
Us Cornishmen did first of all invite;
Only to Cornish against Cæsar's swords,
He the first blow in battle still affords.

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Yet they sometimes abused their valour to rebellion, as in the reign of King Henry VII. upon raising a subsidy granted by parliament, against the Scots, they made a commotion, the ring-leaders being Flammock a lawyer, and Joseph a smith, who assembled an army, and went to Taunton, where they slew the provost Peryn, a commissioner of the subsidy, and marching on, J. Tuchet and L. Audley, joined them, and were their leaders. At last they came to Blackheath, intending to come to the King at London, and incamped on the top of the hill; the King sent the Earls of Oxford, Essex, Suffolk, and others to encompass the hill, that none might escape, himself incamping St. George's Fields; the Lord Daubeny set upon them, and won Deptford Bridge, though strongly defended, and their arrows being reported to be full a yard in length, and assaulting them every way, killed 2000, and took many prisoners, divers of whom the King pardoned, but none of the ringleaders. Lord Audley was drawn from Newgate to Tower hill in a coat of his own arms, reversed and torn, and there beheaded; Flammock and Joseph were hanged and quartered, and their quarters set upon a stake. It is memorable how Joseph the blacksmith cheered himself at his going to execution, saying, "that he hoped by this, his name and memory would be everlasting;" so dear even to vulgar spirits is perpetuity of name, though with infamy, what is it then to noble spirits when joined with glory? They were guilty of another rebellion in the second year of King Edward VI. for injunctions being set forth by that pious prince for removing images out of churches, and that the ministers should dissuade the people from praying to saints, or for the dead, from the use of beads, ashes, and processions; from masses, dirges, praying in an unknown tongue, &c. and commissioners went abroad to see them executed. Mr. Body as he was pulling down images in Cornwall, was stabbed with a knife, in the body, by a popish priest; hereupon the people flocked from several parts, and taking up arms, committed divers outrages. These religious mutineers sent several articles to the King, requiring to have the Latin mass, and the six articles of Henry VIII. (called the bloody articles) revived again. Now though the King knew reason would little prevail with unreasonable men, yet he sent them an answer, and a general pardon if they would lay down their arms: the answer about the six articles is worth rehearsing; "You require, said the King, to have the statute of the six articles revived, do you know what you ask? do you understand what safety and ease you enjoy without them? these laws were indeed made, but as soon repented of; for they were too cruel and bloody to be endured by our people: Oh! poor ignorant

subjects, how are you ensnared and deceived by subtle traytors? we out of pity took them away because they were bloody, and you out of ignorance desire them again; you know full well they made us to be cruel and severe, and gave us cause to draw our swords very often; they were like a whetstone to our swords, and for your sakes only we left off the use of them; and since our mercy inclineth us to write our laws in milk and equity, how came you to be so blind as to desire they should be writ in blood; assure yourselves and be confident, that we make account of nothing under Heaven so much as this: 'To have our laws obeyed, and this cause of God which we have undertaken, to be thoroughly maintained, from which we will never remove a hair's breadth, nor give place to any creature living, much less to any subject, but wherein we will venture to our own royal person, our crown, treasure, realm, and all our estates, whereof we assure you of our high honour: And as to the common-prayer, which you are against, it cannot certainly offend any reasonable man that the service of God is changed from an unknown tongue, since it is only to make him understand what before he knew not, and thereby to give his consent to those prayers which he hath most need of, and to effect his conscience therewith, since God requireth the heart only, and that we should offer a reasonable service to him. He concludes; we for our parts desire to live no longer than to be a father to our people; and as God hath made us your rightful King, so hath he commanded you to be obedient, by whose great Majesty we solemnly protest, you shall feel the power of the same God in our sword, which how mighty it is no subject knoweth; how puissant no private man can judge; and how mortal no English heart can think; therefore embrace our mercy while it is offered, lest the blood spilt by your means cry for vengeance from the earth, and be heard in the ears of the Lord in Heaven." But the rebels grew more outrageous, coming before Exeter, and being denied entrance, endeavoured to storm it, firing the gates, and mining, and lay so long before it, that the citizens suffered great want, feeding on bread of bran and horse flesh; in which extremity an aged citizen bringing forth all his provisions to the people, told them, that as he communicated to them his store, so he would partake with them in their wants, and that he would feed upon one arm and fight with the other, before he would consent to put the city into the hands of the seditious; but the Lord Grey and the Lord Russel, after many conflicts, forced them to raise a siege, and routed them.

The sedition thus suppressed, it is memorable what cruel sport Sir William Kingston the provost marshal made upon men in misery;

one Boyer, Mayor of Bodmin, had been amongst the rebels, not willingly, but forced; the provost sent word he would come and dine with him, for whom the Mayor made great provision. A little before dinner the provost took the Mayor aside, and told him an execution must be that day done in the town, and required to have a gallows set up; after dinner the provost taking the Mayor by the hand, bid him shew the place where the gallows was, and asked if he thought it strong enough; yes, said the Mayor, doubtless it is; well then, said the provost, get you up speedily, for it is provided for you. I hope, said the Mayor, you do not mean as you speak; in faith, said the provost, there is no remedy, for you have been a busy rebel, and so without defence he was hanged; an uncourteous part for a guest to offer his host. Near this place dwelt a miller that had been active in that rebellion; who fearing the marshal, told a sturdy fellow, his servant, that he had occasion to go from home, and if any inquired for him, he bid him say, that he himself was the miller, and had been so for three years before; soon after the provost came, and called for the miller; when out came the servant, and said he was the man; the provost asked how long he had kept the mill; these three years answered the servant; the provost then commanded his men to hang him on the next tree; at this the fellow cried out, that he was not the miller but the miller's man; nay sir, said the provost, I will take you at your word, and if thou be the miller, thou art a busy knave; if thou be not, thou art a false lying knave; however thou canst never do thy master better service than to hang for him, and so without more ado he was dispatched. I will conclude the remarks of this county with somewhat comical. At the dissolution of abbies, King Henry VIII. gave away large shares almost to every one that asked. It happened that two or three of the King's servants waited at the door where he was to come out, designing to beg a large parcel of abbey lands, Mr. John Champernoun, another of his servants seeing them, was inquisitive to know their suit, but they would not impart it, mean time out comes the King, they kneel, so doth Champernoun (being assured that courtiers beg nothing hurtful) they present their petition, the King grants it; they render him humble thanks, so doth Mr. Champernoun; he then requires his share, they deny it; he appeals to the King, who vows that he ment they should have equal shares. So his companions were forced to allot him the priory of St. Germain's in Cornwall, valued at two hundred and forty-three pounds a year; here a blind giver met with a blind giver, the one as little knowing what he asked as the other what he gave.

This country hath nine hundreds, twelve market towns, sixteen parishes, and elects forty-four parliament men.

ADMIRABLE CURIOSITIES IN

21

subjects, how are you ensnared and deceived by subtle traitors? we out of pity took them away because they were bloody, and you out of ignorance desire them again; you know full well they made us to be cruel and severe, and gave us cause to draw our swords very often; they were like a whetstone to our swords, and for your sakes only we left off the use of them; and since our mercy inclineth us to write our laws in milk and equity, how came you to be so blind as to desire they should be writ in blood; assure yourselves and be confident, that we make account of nothing under Heaven so much as this: To have our laws obeyed, and this cause of God which we have undertaken, to be thoroughly maintained, from which we will never remove a hair's breadth, nor give place to any creature living, much less to any subject, but wherein we will venture to our own royal person, our crown, treasure, realm, and all our estates, whereof we assure you of our high honour: And as to the common-prayer, which you are against, it cannot certainly offend any reasonable man that the service of God is changed from an unknown tongue, since it is only to make him understand what before he knew not, and thereby to give his consent to those prayers which he hath most need of, and to effect his conscience therewith, since God requireth the heart only, and that we should offer a reasonable service to him. He concludes; we for our parts desire to live no longer than to be a father to our people; and as God hath made us your rightful King, so hath he commanded you to be obedient, by whose great Majesty we solemnly protest, you shall feel the power of the same God in our sword, which how mighty it is no subject knoweth; how puissant no private man can judge; and how mortal no English heart can think; therefore embrace our mercy while it is offered, lest the blood spilt by your means cry for vengeance from the earth, and be heard in the ears of the Lord in Heaven." But the rebels grew more outrageous, coming before Exeter, and being denied entrance, endeavoured to storm it, firing the gates, and mining, and lay so long before it, that the citizens suffered great want, feeding on bread of bran and horse flesh; in which extremity an aged citizen bringing forth all his provisions to the people, told them, that as he communicated to them his store, so he would partake with them their wants, and that he would feed upon one arm and fight with the other, before he would consent to put the city into the hands of seditious; but the Lord Grey and the Lord Russel, after some conflicts, forced them to raise a siege, it is memorable that The William Kingston the provost marshal made

GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

one Boyer, Mayor of Bodmin, had been removed from office, and was now living, but forced; the provost sent word to the Mayor to come to dinner with him, for whom the Mayor made great provision. At dinner the provost took the Mayor aside, and told him that he must be that day done in the town, and that he was to be hanged up; after dinner the provost taking the Mayor to the gallows, shew the place where the gallows was, and said to the Mayor, enough; yes, said the Mayor, I am ready to die. The provost, get you up speedily, for it is now late. The Mayor, you do not mean as you speak. The provost, there is no remedy, for you have no money for your defence he was hanged; an executioner put him in his host. Near this place dwell a man who was a rebel, rebellion; who fearing the provost, when he had occasion to go from home, bid him say, that he himself was the provost, and so years before; soon after the provost came, and when out came the servant, and said to the provost, how long he had kept the mill; the provost said, and the provost then commanded the miller to come to the market; this the fellow cried out, that he was the provost; the market man; nay sir, said the provost, I will be the provost; thou be the miller, thou art a false lying knave; however the provost was not so service than to hang for him, and so the provost was patched. I will conclude this story with a short story, south; Stafford comical. At the dissolution of the monasteries, through the middle of it, large shares almost to every man, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, three of the King's servants, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, remarkable in this county come out, designing to lay a large stone, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, Devil's Arse, which is a great Champernoun, another of the mill-stones, chrystal, is a cave in the ground of a know their suit, but they were not so, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, seeming to have two buttocks the King, they kneel, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, the ground, the arch of the rock is courtiers beg nothing, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, a water fall; with lights they enter grants it; the provost said, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, the arch of the rock is near together, lose the sight of day; he then said, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, creep on their hands and knees, and vows the provost, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, slowly, beyond which they cannot pass. The mill-stones, chrystal, called Malm Tour, or Mam Tor, because the hill is not diminished, having a spring yet the hill is not diminished, having a spring, and so the mill-stones, chrystal, it is recruited. Elden Hole is remarkable two

CUMBERLAND

Hath Scotland, north; Northumberland and Westmoreland, east; Lancaster, south; and the Irish Sea, west; King Edmund, with Leoline Prince of Wales, wasted all Cumberland, and having put out the eyes of the two sons of King Dunmall, granted the Kingdom to Malcolm, King of Scots, whereof their eldest sons became prefects. King Edward I. died at Carlisle; for intending to invade Scotland, he raised a great army, which he ordered to attend him at this city; but falling sick, and being sensible it would be his death, he commanded his son (afterward Edward II.) to be brought into his presence, exhorting him to be merciful, just, and courteous, constant and true both in word and deed, to be pitiful to those in misery; and that he should carry his bones with him about Scotland, till he had subdued it, and send his heart into the Holy Land with one hundred and forty knights, and three thousand two hundred pounds of silver, which he had provided for that purpose: lastly, that upon pain of eternal damnation this money should not be expended in any other use. In 1324, Carlisle with the abbey, and houses of the friars minors, were burnt. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth a vein of pure brass was found at Kelwick, which had lain long neglected. In April 1651, about five in the afternoon, was an earthquake in Cumberland and Westmoreland, the people forsook their houses, and some chimnies fell down. After the Scottish army came into England, 1651, it rained blood, which covered the church and church-yard of Bencastle. At Salkelds upon the River Eden, is a trophy of victory, called Long Meg and her daughters; they are seventy-seven stones, each 10 feet high, and 1 fifteen feet. Skiddaw Hill riseth up with two high heads like Parnassus, and beholds Scruffel Hill in Anundantle within Scotland; there is a rhyme,

That Skiddaw, Lauvellen, and Casticand,
Are the highest hills in all England.

These being two other hills in this tract, according as mists rise and fall upon these heads, the people prognosticate the change of weather, and so they sing,

If Skiddaw have a cap,
Scruffel knows full well of that.

The sea hath eaten great part of the land away upon the shores of the western shires, and the trees are discovered, when the wind blows, at low water, else they are covered with sands; the people say they dig up trees without boughs, out of the mossy places in this shire, which they find by the dew in summer, that never falls upon the ground under which they lie. Some emperick surgeons in Scotland take a journey to the Picts Wall every summer to gather vulnary plants, which they say grow plentifully there, and are very effectual, being planted by the Romans for chirurgical uses. There is a small borough called Solway Frith, under which, within the bay, they report the English and Scots fought with their fleets at full sea, and with their horse and foot at the ebb. This province was a kingdom of itself, and King Stephen to purchase aid from the Scots gave it to that crown, which Henry II. regained; after which many bickerings happened, but none so fatal to the Scots as the fight of Solway Moss, where the nobility disdaining to serve under Oliver Sinclair, yielded themselves to the English, for which dishonor King James V. died of grief. There are many ruins of castles, walls, and forts in this county, with altars and inscriptions of captains and colonels.

This county is not divided into hundreds; it hath nine market towns, fifty-eight churches, divers chapels of ease, and elects six parliament men.

DERBYSHIRE

Hath York, north; Nottingham, east; Leicester, south; Stafford and Cheshire, west; the River Derwent runs through the middle of it. Here is the best lead in England; likewise mill-stones, chrystal, alabaster, whetstone, pitcoal, and iron. Remarkable in this county is the peak, wherein is a cave called the Devil's Arse, which is a great rock or castle on a high hill, under which is a cave in the ground of a vast bigness, so named by reason of its seeming to have two buttocks sticking out like a man's bending to the ground, the arch of the rock is very high, and through it drops of water fall; with lights they enter into it, and going between two rocks near together, lose the sight of day; the passage is so low that they creep on their hands and knees, and come to a dark river running slowly, beyond which they cannot pass. There is another high hill called Malm Tour, or Mam Tor, because maimed, or broken at the top like an old ruined wall, from which the sand falls continually, yet the hill is not diminished, having a spring of matter from whence it is recruited. Elden Hole is remarkable two

miles from Castleton, in the High Peak; the hole is thirty yards long, and fifteen broad on the top, descending directly into the earth, but straighter forty yards deep; you may see into it above sixty yards, as far as the light coming in at the mouth will admit: throw a stone in and you may hear it strike ten times on the sides of the rock in its fall, and no more. The Earl of Leicester in Queen Elizabeth's time, hired a poor man to be let down with ropes, and to hang in the middle while they threw down stones, thereby to know the depth, having a pole in his hand to keep the stones from hurting him; being let down one hundred yards, he was drawn up again; but whether from the fear of the rope breaking, or the stones knocking him on the head from above, or the ghosts and spirits supposed to be there, it is certain he fell stark mad, and died eight days after. And about seventy years since, Mr. Henry Cavendish, who had been at Jerusalem, and other parts of the world, hearing caused engines one C. Bradly a rope eight another engine further; and by yards further; rope was fastned he could go no he was let down score yards he and being drawn less for a time, lameness; after speech, he de- he descended of deer, sheep, and that he was how or in what nottell; belived but never was senses, nor



MR. HOBBS.

limbs. Not far hence is a fountain which ebbs and flows like the sea, though not at the same hours, neither is it salt. At Buxton is a hot bath, where out of the rock, within the compass of eight yards, nine springs arise, eight of them warm, and the ninth very cold; these run from under a stone building, and about eight

of this place, to be made, and was let down by yards and by eighty yards another eighty at the top of the a bell, to ring if further; when the third four-rung the bell, up, was speech- and struck with he recovered his clared, that as there were bones &c. also of men, affrighted, but manner he could several years, in his perfect sound of his

paces off receive another hot spring from a well inclosed with four flat stones, called St. Anns, near which a cold spring bubbles up; it is found by experience, that great cures have been done by these waters, being good for the stomach and sinews, and pleasant to bath in; the effect thus described by Mr. Hobbs.

Unto St. Anne the fountain sacred is,
 With waters hot and cold its springs do rise,
 And in its sulphurous veins there's medicine lies.
 Old men's numb joints, new vigour here acquire,
 In frozen nerves this water kindleth fire;
 Hither the cripples halt some help to find,
 Run hence and leave their crutches here behind.
 The barren hither to be fruitful come,
 And without help of spouse go mother's home.

Pool's Hole is another cave so called, by some, from a famous thief of that name, who seizing upon travellers, robbed and murdered them here; it is seated at the bottom of a hill, and the entrance so narrow that they are forced to stoop much; further in it is higher, but dark; when they go in with lights, the roof seems to shine with sparks of fire; going further over rocks, and stones, like mountains and vallies, a blind river murmuring against the rocks; passing this over, they creep up another high rock to a dark cave; on the ceiling hang stones like gammons of bacon; there is also a yellow stone like a lion with a rough main, and another like an old man lying on a bed. Not far hence is another cave, called Pool's Bedchamber, all of plain stone, where is a rock like a bed, and a stone like a chamber-pot.

Joan Wast, a blind woman in Derby, was martyred in this county, who was rather, saith Dr. Fuller, an object of mercy, than a subject of cruelty: she was a silly soul, and indeed an innocent, though no fool: this poor woman had a clear apprehension of God's truth, for the testimony whereof she was burnt by Bains, the bloody Popish Bishop, who as he began with Mrs. Joyce, one of the best, and this Joan Wast one of the meanest birth in this diocese, so no doubt had Queen Mary lived, he would have made his cruelty meet in persons of a middle conditions. This Mrs. Joyce being asked, why she would not be present at mass, and receive the sacrament, answered, because she found them not in God's word, otherwise said she, I would with all my heart reverence and esteem them. The bishop replied, if thou wilt believe no more than is written in the scriptures, thou art in a damnable condition: at which she was amazed, telling him, his words

were ungodly and wicked. Being brought to the stake, she prayed earnestly that God would abolish idolatrous mass, to which almost all the multitude, and the sheriff himself, cried Amen; then taking a cup of beer, she said, "I drink unfeignedly to all that love the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and wish the abolishment of Popery." Her friends pledged her, and several did penance for it afterward: When the fire was put to her, she neither strived nor struggled, but with her hands lift up to Heaven, quietly gave up the ghost.

Sir Hugh Willoughby was born of an ancient family at Risely in this county; in the reign of Edward II. he was employed by the king and the merchants of London to find out the north-east passage to the East-Indies, having three ships, with a large commission, not dated from the year of our Lord, but from the year of the world 5515, because in their long voyage they might have occasion to present it to foreign princes. They departed from Deptford, May 10, 1553, and after much foul weather steered N. N. W; but August 2, a tempest arose, whereby one ship was divided from the rest, and they never saw it again: Sir Hugh holding on his course discovered a land, which for ice he could not come near, in 72 degrees, called Willoughby land, but it appeareth by a will found in the pocket of a person of quality, that in January 1554, Sir Hugh and most of his company were then in health, though all soon after were frozen to death in the haven of Arzina in Lapland: the next summer some other English ships coming to the place, found the ship entire, and all the men frozen to death, with an account of the passages of their voyage. Lapland hath since been surrounded by the English; the west part belongs to the King of Sweden, and the east, to the Muscovites; they are generally Heathens, as poor in knowledge as estate, paying their tribute in furs, whose little houses are but great holes, wherein they live in the ignorance of money. There is a custom in this barbarous country (as eye witnesses report) that it is death to marry a maid without her friends consent; so that if any man have affection for a maid, a day is appointed for both their friends to meet and see the young couple run a race; the maid hath the advantage of starting, and third part of the race, so that it is impossible except she be willing ever to be overtaken; if the maid out run him, he must never make any further motion to her under a penalty; but if she have any affection for him, though she at first run hard to try his love, yet she pretends to stumble or halt, so that he may overtake her.

Thus none are compelled to marry against their wills; so that in this poor country married people are richer in content than in other

lands, where so many forced matches cause feigned love, and real unhappiness.

In April 1660, about Chesterfield it rained white ashes, so that the fields looked like snow.

This year, November 20, the River Derwent at Derby, and five miles above and below, for three or four hours, was totally dried up, and no water came to the mills; the boats were all aground, the fishes on the sand, so that children took them up, and the people went over dry-shod, though Derwent is an inland river, and never ebbs or flows, and is at Derby one hundred feet broad, and seven or eight deep, with a quick fierce stream. November 11th 1662, heppened a whirl-wind at Derby, whereby the town was damaged five thousand pound in four minutes: it blew the tiles off the houses, threw down barns, trees were torn up by the roots, it overturned stone walls, and broke gates fastened with iron bars into pieces; this wind was accompanied with flames of fire, and some affirm it rained blood.

X The ale of Derbyshire is counted the best and strongest; it is the old drink of England, though a French poet in the days of King Henry III. merrily jested on it in these verses;

Of this strange drink, so like the Stygian lake,
(They call it ale) I know not what to make;
Men drink it thick, and vent it passing thin,
Much dregs therefore, must needs remain within.

This county hath six hundreds, 10 market towns, 106 parishes, and elects four parliament men.

DEVONSHIRE

Hath the narrow sea south; the Severn, north; Cornwall, west; Dorset and Somerset, east. The natives are ingenious in any imployment; and Queen Elizabeth used to say of their gentry, they were all born courtiers with a becoming confidence.

There was plenty of silver formerly found in the Parish of Comb Martin, and King Edward I. fetched miners out of Derbyshire to dig it, turning to great profit as appears by a record in the Tower of London. For William Wymondham accounted for 270 pounds weight of silver, and he was fined 521 pound 10 shillings weight. In his 24th year was brought to London in fined silver, in wedges, 704 pounds, 3 shillings, 1 penny-weight; next year 360 miners were pressed out of the Peak and Wales, to dig it, and great was the

profit in silver and lead. In the reign of Edward III. this silver was considerable towards the maintenance of the wars. These mines being neglected by the wars of Lancaster and York, were again re-entered by one Bulmer, an artist, in Queen Elizabeth's time, who presented a silver cup, made thereof, to the Earl of Bath, with this inscription alluding to the metal :

In Martin's Comb, I long lay hid,
Obscure, depressed with grossest soil,
Debased much with mixed lead,
Till Bulmer came, whose skill and toil
Reformed me so pure and clean,
As richer no where else is seen.

This county hath many commodious havens, among which Totness was famous for Brute's first entrance, of whom the poet writes thus :

The gods did guide his sail and course,
The winds were at command,
At Totness was the happy shore,
Where first he came to land.

The Danes
Tinmouth to
about the year
King of the west
steward to know
whom they slew,
to return to their
mouth prevent-
of the invaders.
port Sir Francis
liant sea captain
year 1577, and
ten months,
fortunes, pro-
his guide, and
sort, sailed
Of whom are
lowing lines.



first entering at
invade this land
787, Brightrick,
Saxons, sent his
their demands,
yet were forced
ships; but Ply-
ed the entrance
From this
Drake, that va-
set forth in the
in two years and
through various
vidence being
valour his con-
round the world
written the fol-

SIR F. DRAKE.

Drake whom the incompass'd world so fully knew,
Whom both the poles of Heaven at once did view;
If men are silent, stars and sun will care
To register their fellow traveller.

As he lived most of his time, so he died, and was buried at sea;
when his corps was cast out of the ship, this verse was made on
him:

Though Rome's religion should in time return
Drake, none thy body will ungrave again
There is no fear posterity should burn
Those bones which free from fire in sea remain.

The Lord C. Howard from Plymouth impeached the entrance
of the Invisible Spanish Armada in 1588, to their own shame, and
his immortal honor.

The commodities of this shire are wool and cloathing; corn is
plenteous, also fish and fowl. Exeter city has ditches and walls a
mile and a half in circuit, fifteen parish churches, and a castle called
Rugemont, commanding the city and country about, with a pleasant
prospect to the sea. The River Lid, by Lidford, runs under ground,
the stream sinking so deep that it is invisible, but supplies to the ear
what it denies to the eye, so great is the noise thereof. In the Parish
of North Taunton, near an house called Bath, is a pit, but in the
winter, a pool, not maintained by any spring, but by the fall of rain
water, and dry in summer, of which it is observed, (saith Dr. Fuller)
that before the death of any prince, or other accidents of importance,
it will, though in a dry hot season, overflow its banks, and so continue
till that which is prognosticated be fulfilled; and that it overflowed
four times in eighty years last past. The hanging stone is one of the
bound-stones parting Comb Martin from the next parish, so named
from a thief, who stole a sheep and tied its four legs together, and
carried it as a porter does his knot, but resting on this stone, the sheep
struggled and slipped his legs over the thief's neck, and happened to
hang him. We may add to these wonders the Gubbings, which is
a sort of Scythia in England, and they pure beathens within; this
place lyeth near Brent Tor on the Edge of Dartmouth. It is reported,
that about 200 years ago, two strumpets being with child fled thither,
to whom certain debauched fellows resorted, and that this was their
origin; they are a people by themselves, exempt from all authority

ecclesiastial or civil; they dwell in cottages like swine, being rather holes than houses, having all in common, and are multiplied without marriage into many hundreds; their language is the dross of the dregs of Devonshire speech, and the more learned a man is, the less they understand him; during our civil wars no soldiers quartered among them, for fear of being quartered by them; their wealth consists of other men's goods, for they live by stealing sheep on the moor; it is in vain to search their houses, being a work beneath a sheriff and above the power of a constable; their swiftness is such as they will out-run horses; so healthful they out-live most men; ignorant of luxury, the extinguisher of life; they hold together like bees, and if you offend one, all revenge his quarrel.

In 959, Edgar, a Saxon king, hearing of the beauty of Elfreda, only daughter to Orgdatus, Duke of Devonshire, and founder of Tavistock Abbey, sent his favourite, the Earl of Ethelwold, who could well judge of beauty, with commission, if he found her such as fame reported, to bring her with him, and he would make her his queen; the young Earl upon sight of the lady was so surprised, that he courted her himself, and procured her father's consent, if he could obtain the King's. The Earl posted back to the King, relating, that the lady was fair indeed, but not answerable to the report of her, yet desired of the King that he might marry her, as being her father's heir, thereby to raise his fortune. The King consented; and the marriage was solemnized, yet the fame of her beauty spread more than before; so that the king doubting he had been abused, resolved to try the truth; and pretending to hunt in the Duke's park, came to his house. Ethelwold suspecting this, acquainted his wife with the wrong he did her and the King, intreating her earnestly to cloath herself so as might least set forth her beauty, as she tendered his life; but she resolving to be revenged, and thinking now was the time to make the most of her beauty, longing also to be queen, would not be accessary to her own injury, but decked herself in her richest ornaments, which so improved her beauty, that the King was astonished, and resolved to be quit with his perfidious favourite; yet dissembling his passion, he went to hunting, where taking Ethelwold at an advantage he ran him through; and having made fair Elfreda a widow, he took her to wife. We read that Ordulphus, son of Orgdatus, Earl of Devonshire (whether this is certain or no) was a giant-like man, and could break bars of iron with his hands. Agnes Priest was burnt at Exeter in the year 1558; her husband and her own children were her greatest persecutors, from whom she fled,

because they would force her to go to mass; she was condemned by Troublefield, Bishop of Exeter, for denying the sacrament of the altar. After her condemnation, she refused to receive any money, saying, she was going to a city where money had no mastery: she was a simple woman to behold, little of stature, and about fifty-nine years old.

One Child, the last of the family, was of antient extract at Plimstock, and had great possessions; it happened that hunting in Dartmore, he lost both his company and way in a deep snow; so killing his horse, he crept into his hot bowels for warmth, and writ thus with his blood:

Whoever find and brings me to my tomb,
The land of Plimstock, that shall be his doom.

The night after it seems he was frozen to death, and being first found by the monks of Tavistock, they hastily provided to inter him in their own Abbey; his own parishioners at Plimstock stood at the ford of the river to take the body from them; but they must rise early, yea, not sleep at all, who over-reach monks in matter of profit; for they cast a slight bridge over the river, carried over the corps and interred it; this is since better built, and is called Guile Bridge to this day.

Nicholas and Andrew Tremain were twins, and younger sons of Thomas Tremain, of Colacomb, Esq. such was their likeness in all parts of face and body, as not to be distinguished but by their different habits, which they would sometimes change to make sport, and occasioned many mistakes; they felt alike pain, though at a distance, and without any notice given, they equally desired to walk, travel, sit, sleep, eat, and drink at the same time, as their father attested; in this they differed, at Newhaven in France, one was a captain of a troop, the other a private soldier: here they were both slain in the year 1564, death being pitiful to kill them together, to prevent the lingering languishing of the survivor.

In 1336, John de Beigny, Lord of Ege-lifford, having been a traveller and a soldier in his youth, retired home, married, and had three sons; of these the youngest went to fight against the Saracens in Spain, whose valour the father heard much commended, which made him more patiently endure his absence, but when Death had bereft him of his two eldest sons, he was often heard to say, Oh! if I might but once embrace my son, I would be contented to die

presently. His son returning unexpectedly, the old man expired with an extasy of joy; thus if Heaven should take us at our word in all our random desires, we should be drowned in the deluge of our own passion.

T. Stuckly was a younger brother of an antient family near Ilfracomb, a man of great parts, which himself knew too well; having prodigally spent his patrimony, he entered on several projects; the first was the peopling of Florida, then newly found out in the West Indies. So confident was his ambition, that he blushed not to tell Queen Elizabeth, that he would chuse rather to be sovereign of a mole hill, than the highest subject to the greatest prince in Christendom; adding, that he was sure to be a prince before his death. I hope, said the Queen, I shall hear from you when you are settled in your principality. I will write unto you (quoth Stuckly.) In what language? said the queen. He replied, in the stile of princes, to our dear sister. But his project of Florida being blasted, he treacherously attempted what he could not loyally atchieve, going into Ireland and thence into Italy, where he got into favour with Pope Pius V. boasting, that with 3000 soldiers he would beat all the English out of Ireland. The Pope gave him many titles in Ireland, as Earl of Wexford, Marquis of Leinster, &c. and furnished him with 800 men, paid by the King of Spain, for this Irish expedition, in passing to which, Stuckly lands in Portugal, just when King Sebastian, with two Moorish kings, were going into Africa; Stuckly scorning to attend, is persuaded to accompany them. Landing in Africa, Stuckly gave this seasonable council, "that they should refresh their soldiers two or three days, some of whom were sick by the tempestuous passage:" but this would not be heard, King Sebastian was furious to engage, and so in the battle of Aleaser, their army were totally defeated, and Stuckly lost his life.

(A fatal fight, where in one day was slain,
Three kings that were, and one that would be fain.

X This battle was fought in 1578, where Stuckly with his 800 men behaved themselves valiantly, till overpowered with multitudes; and so ended this bubble of ostentation.

In the wars between Edward II. and the barons, one John Pou-drass, a tanner's son of Exeter, gave out, that he was the true Edward, the eldest son of King Edward I. and by a false nurse changed in his cradle, and that King Edward was a carter's son and laid in his

place; for which forgery, being hanged and quartered, he confessed at his death, that he had a familiar spirit in his house, in likeness of a cat, that had assured him he should be King of England, and that he served this spirit three years to bring his design about.

King Richard III. lay in Exeter Castle, and being told that the name of it was Rugemont, he was much startled, having heard wizards say, that he should never prosper after he had met with Rugemont; but the devil or his oracle spoke low or lisping, desiring to hide his folly and ignorance; or King Richard's guilty conscience being frightened, mistook him, seeing not Rugemont, but Richmond, the title of King Henry VII. was the destruction of this usurper.

In the reign of King Edward IVth, Sir John Hawksford, Lord Chief Justice, living at Annory, of a great estate, and without children, grew melancholy, and calling the keeper of his park, charged him with negligence in suffering his deer to be stolen, commanding him if he met with any one in his night's walk, that would not stand or speak, he should not fail to kill him, whoever he were. Having thus provided to end his doleful days, he in a dark night conveyed himself out of his house, and walked alone in his park; the keeper in his circuit hearing one coming toward him, asked who was there, but no answer being made, bid him stand, which he would not, so the keeper shot him dead, and coming to see, found it to be his master.

In 1558, Twiford was burnt down by straw in a chimney, which fired the house and town, so that in an hour and a half it consumed 400 houses, to the loss of £150,000. in money, plate, merchandise, household-stuff, and houses, 50 persons, men, women, and children were burnt; yet by providence, an alms-house, with several poor people, was preserved almost amidst the flames.

October 21, 1632, in the church of Witny Comb, during sermon, happened a great darkness, and a terrible thunder like cannon, the darkness so increasing that the people could not see each other, extraordinary lightning filled the church with fire, smook, and a smell like brimstone, a ball of fire came in at the window, and passed through the church, which so affrighted them that some fell on their knees, others on their faces, and one upon another, crying out of burning and scalding, all giving up themselves for dead. Mr. G. Lyde, the Minister, was in his pulpit, and had no harm, but was a sad spectator of the sufferings of others, the lightning seizing on his wife, and burning her cloaths and body, and another woman by her in the same manner, but her maid and child sitting at the pew door had no hurt: another woman attempting to run out had her cloaths

burnt, and her flesh torn off her back, almost to the bones; another had her body so terribly burnt, that she died; one Master Hill had his head so violently struck against the wall that he died, his son sitting by him received no hurt; another man had his head cloven, his skull rent in three places, and his brains thrown upon the ground whole, the hair of his head through the violence of the blow, stuck fast to a pillar; some seats in the body of the church were turned upside down, yet those which sat in them had little hurt. A man going out of the chancel, his dog running before, was whirled about and fell down dead, but the master stepping back was preserved: the church was much torn, and a beam breaking in the midst fell down between the minister and the clerk, and hurt neither, and where the steeple and church was most rent, the least hurt was done; one maid was killed by the stones, which fell from the steeple as fast as if thrown by an hundred men; a pinicle of which beat through into the church. The pillar against which the pulpit stood, being white was turned black; there were three persons killed, and sixty-two hurt, divers had their linen burnt, their outward garments not being singed. The lightning passed, and the people in a terrible amaze, a gentleman said, neighbours in the name of God, shall we venture out of the church? the minister answered, let us make an end of prayer, for it is better to die here than in another place; but the people seeing the church so terribly rent over their heads, they durst not proceed in their devotions, but went out.

At that time a Bowling-Alley near the church yard, was turned into heaps and pits, as if plowed, and at Brixton, near Plymouth, fell hailstones as big as a turkey's egg, some of five, six, and seven ounces.

This county hath 33 hundreds, 32 market towns, 394 churches, and elects 26 parliament men.

DORSETSHIRE

Hath Devonshire, west; Somerset and Wiltshire, north; Hantshire, east; and the Narrow Seas south. It abounds in wheat, cattle, wool, and kersies. Dorchester the chief town, was formerly walled, whereof some part standeth on the west and south sides; the trench like a quadrate, contains one thousand seven hundred paces, it was destroyed by the Danes. Bedbury is now a decayed castle, though once the court of the West Saxon Kings; so is Cerne, where Austin →

— the monk broke down the altars of the Saxon God Hell, whom they worshipped as the preserver of health. Shaftsbury likewise wherein Aquilla, (either man or eagle) is reported to have prophesied of future times: in this city, was buried, Edward son of Edgar, who was murdered at Cort-Castle by his step-mother, to make way for her own son.

In the reign of Edward II. the Earl of Lancaster married a lady from Camelford, who was taken from him by one Richard Martin, a lame dwarf, who challenged her for his wife, alledging he had lain with her before the Earl married her; the lady being examined confessed it was true, and the ugly fellow in her right claimed the two earldoms of Lincoln and Salisbry.

In 1311, the church of Middleton, with all the monuments, were consumed by lightning.

In 1348, a plague was brought from beyond sea into the towns on the sea coast of Dorsetshire, which raged so, that scarce the tenth man was left alive in the kingdom.

In 1506, King Philip sailing out of Germany into Spain, was driven by a tempest upon the coast of England, and landing at Weymouth, was invited by Sir Thomas Trenchard to his house, who sent word to King Henry VII. of his arrival; he glad to have his court honoured by so great a Prince, sent the Earl of Arundel to wait upon him with a gallant troop of three hundred horse, and for more state he came by torch-light. Though King Philip had reasons to hasten his journey, yet not to distate King Henry he came post to Windsor, where after magnificent entertainment, King Henry, when they were private, laying his hand upon King Philip's arm, said, "Sir, you have been saved upon my coast, I hope you will not suffer me to wreck upon yours." The King of Castile asking him what he meant; "I mean (saith the King) that hair-brained fellow the Earl of Suffolk, who being my subject, is protected in your country, and begins to play the fool when all others are weary of it." The King of Castile answered, "I thought Sir your felicity had been above these thoughts, but if it trouble you I will banish him." King Henry answered, that his desire was to have him delivered up; the King of Castile a little confused said, "That can I not do with my honor;" well then, said the King, the matter is at an end; at last the King of Castile, who much esteemed King Henry, said, "Sir, you shall have him, but upon your honor you shall not take away his life." "I promise it upon my honor, said King Henry;" and he kept his promise, for he was not put to death during his reign; yet he took such order that his son

Henry the VIII. cut off his head; this Earl had lately gone over to Flanders to the Lady Margaret, King Henry's sworn enemy, which made the King doubt of his intentions; after King Philip had received the Order of the Garter, and King Henry that of the Golden Fleece, the King of Castile departed.

In 1558, at Blackmore, in the parish of Armitage, a piece of ground of three acres removed over another close, with the trees and fences thereon, stopping up an high-way which led to Cerne, the hedges inclosing it as before, and the trees standing upright, only one oak of twenty load fell down; in the place whence it removed remained a great deep pit.

In 1613, August 8th, the town of Dorchester was consumed with fire, save a few houses near the church, and goods to the value of two hundred thousand pounds, yet no man perished therein.

In June, 1653, a black cloud was seen over the town of Pool, which dissolved into a shower of blood, and fell warm upon men's hands, some green leaves with those drops upon them were sent to London.

The Forest of is so called, becoming hither to taken other deer, beautiful white afterward Thoma a gentleman and killed, for laid a fine upon whole county, they hold pay to year a sum of Exchequer, call Silver. Myself, have paid a share who never tasted so that it seems, is sooner eaten

Mr. Ignatius at Lime Regis, sent to Exeter, a merchant in last came to be mayor, and was a justice of peace twenty-four years:



DR. FULLER.

the White Hart cause Henry III. hunt, and having he spared a hart, which mas de Lynd, with others took which the King him, and the and the lands this day every money into the ed, White Hart saith Dr. Fuller, for the sauce, any of the meat, King's venison than digested. Jordan was born and when young to be brought up this city, he at

yet his beginning was very mean, which he was always ready to acknowledge; when some threatened him with law suits, and that they would not give over while he was worth a groat, he cheerfully told them, that he should be then but two-pence poorer than when he first came to Exeter; for, said he, "I brought but six-pence with me hither:" he would often say he wondered what rich men meant they gave so little to the poor, and yet raked so much together for their children; do you not see, said he, what becomes of it? reckoning up divers examples of such as heaped up much for their children, who consumed it all; on the other side, he spoke of such as had small beginnings, and became rich, particularly himself; "I came, said he, but with a groat or six-pence to this city, had I had a shilling in my purse I had never been Mayor of Exeter." In his troubles in the star-chamber, when one told him he was sorry that the lord keeper was against him, he answered, "I have a greater lord keeper than him, the Lord is my keeper I will not be afraid." He was famous for justice and charity in his life, and at his death left large legacies to the poor of this city and county.

This county hath twenty-nine hundreds, nineteen market towns, and two hundred and forty-eight parishes, and elects twenty parliament men.

DURHAM

Hath Northumberland, north; divided by the River Derwent and Tyne; York, south; the German Ocean, east; Cumberland and Westmoreland, west. It abounds with coal, lead, and iron. Near Darlington, whose waters are warm, there are three pits wonderful deep, called Hell-Kettles, judged to come of an earthquake in 1179. For on Christmas Day at Oxonhal, the ground heaved aloft like a tower, and continued immoveable till even, and then fell with so horrible a noise, as affrighted the inhabitants, and the earth swallowing it up, made in the place three deep pits; it is reported that B. Tonston put a goose into one of the pits, which was found in the River Tees; if so, these kettles have passages under ground. From the River Weer at Butterby, in summer issues a salt redish water, and growing thick, becomes salt, which the people use.

In the reign of William I. Wolstan was Bishop of Durham, and Lanfrank reporting him insufficient from want of learning, the King commanded him to put off his pontifical robes, and leave his bishoprick, when by divine inspiration, Wolstan answered, "A better than

you, O King, bestowed these robes upon me, and to him will I restore them;" and going to King Edward the Confessor's shrine, who made him a Bishop, and putting off his robes, he struck his staff upon his monument, which stuck fast (saith the author) in the stone, and could not be drawn forth but by himself, which so terrified both Lanfrank and the King, that they intreated him to take his robes again and keep his Bishoprick.

When King Edward III. was victorious in France, the Scots with David Bruce their King, invaded England with sixty-two thousand men, and marched to Durham, supposing none but priests and shepherds were left at home, such vast numbers being abroad upon service, but they found it otherwise, for several lords in the north, with the Bishop of York, Durham, and others of the clergy, gathered such great forces, that by the animation of Queen Philippa (who

though big with person through encouragethem Scots at Nevils feated their great King David pri- Earls of Fife, ray, Sutherland, Arch-Bishop of and others, and sand Scots; yet valour, espec- who had two in his body, his wounded with an and other wea- his hand; and to be taken, en- proveke the En- and John Cop- of Roxborough him to yield,



QUEEN PHILIPPA.

him so fiercely over his face with his gauntlet as beat out two of his teeth; but since he could not force a death, he must submit to be a prisoner, he was conveyed by Copland out of the field; the Queen retired to Newcastle to attend the event of the battle, and hearing King David was taken, sent to the captain to deliver up his royal

child, rode in the troops, to meeting the Cross, they de- army, and took soner, with the Monteith, Mur- Douglas, the St. Andrew's, slew fifteen thou- not for want of ally in the King spears hanging leg desperately arrow, his sword pons beat out of yet disdain- deavoured to glish to kill him, land, Captain Castle, advising the King struck

prisoner, which he refusing, she sends over a complaint to King Edward, who ordered him to come to Calais, where he made so discreet a defence, that he had five hundred pounds a year in land given him, in any place he would choose near his own dwelling, with order to deliver up his prisoner to the Queen, which he did at York, with such an ingenious apology as satisfied both her and the council. King David was prisoner in the Tower eleven years, and then was set at liberty, on condition to pay one hundred thousand marks in ten years as a ransom.

Cicely Nevil, whose father's vast estate afforded him a mansion house for every week in the year, is a clear instance of human frail felicity, was youngest daughter to Ralph Earl of Westmoreland (of which family Raby was the chief seat) who had twenty-one children, but she exceeded her sisters in honor, being married to Richard Duke of York; she was blessed with three sons, each born in several kingdoms, Edward (afterward Edward IV.) was born at Bourdeaux, George at Dubling, and Richard at Fotheringay. This was her happiness; behold her miseries; she saw her husband killed in battle, George Duke Clarence her second son drowned in a but of Malmsey, King Edward her eldest son cut off by intemperance in the prime of his years, his two sons butchered by their uncle Crookback Richard, and he himself not long after slain at Bosworth; she saw her own reputation publicly murdered at Paul's Cross by that son, taxing his eldest brother as a bastard; and yet she was not haughty in her good, nor dejected in her ill estate, an argument of an even and steady soul; indeed she lived to see Elizabeth her grand-child married to King Henry VII. but had little comfort thereby, the party of the Yorkists were so depressed by him; she lived thirty-five years a widow, and died the tenth of Henry VII. 1425, and was buried by her husband in the church of Fotheringay in Northamptonshire, the choir of which being demolished by King Henry VIII. their bones lay in the church-yard without any monument, till Queen Elizabeth coming thither in progress, ordered them to be interred in the church, and two tombs to be erected over them; so their bodies wrapped in lead were removed from their plain graves, and their coffins opened; the Duchess Cicely had about her neck a silver ribbon with the pardon from Rome, penned in a fine Roman hand, so fair to be read as written but yesterday: this lady was a benefactress to Queen's College in Cambridge. In former ages the bishops had the royalties of princes over their country, and the inhabitants pleaded the privilege not to pass the River of Tees or Tyne to serve in war, whose charge they alledged was to defend

the corps of St. Cuthbert, their adored saint, and called themselves The Holy Werk Folks; the repute of this Cuthbert, and his supposed defence against the Scots was such, that several of our kings went to his tomb on pilgrimage, and gave large possessions to his church; among others King Canute came thither bare-foot, and at Cuthbert's tomb enlarged and confirmed their liberties.

This county hath four wakes, one hundred and eighteen parishes, and elects four parliament men.

ESSEX

Hath Kent, south; divided by the River Thames; Suffolk, north; severed by the River Stour; Cambridge, Hertford, and Middlesex, west; the two latter almost parted by the River Lea; the German Ocean, east. This shire produceth plenty of saffron about Walden, a fair market town which coloured it with the name. It hath the best oysters called Wallfleet, thought by Pliny to have been served in the Roman kitchen. Likewise cloth, stuffs, and hops. The air of the east parts is not counted healthful: those parts next the sea are called the hundreds, fruitful in cattle. The vulgar wits astonish strangers with the stock of poor people in those parts, affirming, they have five hundred cows, and nine hundred sheep, which are indeed but five cows and nine sheep in these hundreds. The chief town is Colchester, built by Coilus the British Prince in 124, wherein the first Christian King, Empress, and Emperor in the world were born, that is, King Lucius, Helena, and Constantine, of whom the poet sings;

From Colchester there arose a star,
The rays whereof gave glorious light
Throughout the world in climates far,
Great Constantine, Rome's Emperor bright.

The most famous antiquity is Camolodunum, near Meldon, the royal seat of Cunobelin, King of the Ginobantes (as by money therein minted appeareth about our Saviour's birth,) which city Claudius won from the Britons, and therein placed a colony of Romans: in the east promontory, in 1370, the teeth of a giant were found (if they were not of an elephant) of a great size: in the reign of Queen Elizabeth more bones as monstrous were digged up. The monks write, that a pilgrim was sent by St. John Baptist to King Edward the Confessor with a ring, upon which account his house in this country

was called Have-a-King; but the clergy in those times made no conscience to invent fictions: there were bones digged up at Ness near Hardwich, which for bigness and length amazed the beholders; I cannot, saith Dr. Fuller, think them to be bones of men, since by the proportion of the doors and roofs of ancient buildings, if they were so big and tall, they must go into their houses stooping, if not creeping along, and those who affirm it seem as careless of their credit as the traveller was who said he saw bees as big as dogs, and yet their hives of an ordinary size; and being asked what shift they made to get in? nay, said he, what know I, let *them* look to that. More probably these were bones of Elephants brought into England by the Emperor Claudius. Mr. Thomas Smith of Searstone writes thus: "Toward the latter end of Queen Elizabeth," saith he, "I served Sir Edward Dennis in the Abbey of Waltham Cross, which then lay in ruinous heaps, and Sir Edward beginning to re-edify it, his gardiner discovered a fair marble stone, the cover of a tomb of the same, and being removed, there appeared the anatomy of a man, the bones remained in order, none of them out of place, and no dust or filth in the tomb; having well observed it, I told the spectators, if they did but touch any part thereof, it would fall asunder, which happened accordingly. I am persuaded that as the flesh and entrails of this anatomy became invisible, so would the bones have been in some longer time. O what is man which vanisheth thus away like smoak-vapour, and is no more seen? Whosoever reads this passage may find sufficient cause of humility: it is thought that this was the body of King Harold." This county hath no cathedral, and the churches challenge no eminent commendation: But private houses Essex will own no superior, whereof three are remarkable, 1. Audley-end, built by the Earl of Suffolk, which was one of the best subjects houses in the nation; yet is the structure better than the standing, being low on one side. 2. New-hall, built by the Ratcliffs, Earls of Essex, pleasant for its shady approach and the parks about it. 3. Copthall seated on an hill in the midst of a park, built by the Abbot of Waltham, enlarged by Sir Thomas Heneage and others; here is a gallery well furnished, and proportionable. In 1639, an hurricane or whirl-wind blew the great east window down, and carried part thereof, with the picture of the Lord Coventry (singled from many more which hung on both sides untouched) all the length of the gallery, about fifty-six yards out of the west window, which it then threw to the ground; some observed the like wind in other places about the same time, as presaging our civil dissensions. There is a proverb in this county,

X he may fetch a flitch of bacon from Dunmow: this depends on a custom in the Priory of Dunmow, founded by Juga, a noble lady, for black nuns, 1111. But the property was after altered into a male nunnery; and the friars were merry when they ordained, that if any person would come and kneel on two stones yet to be seen at the church door before the convent, and take the ensuing oath, he might demand a gammon of bacon, which should be freely given him.

You shall swear by the custom of our confession,
That you never made any nuptial transgression
Since you were married man and wife,
By household brawls or contentious strife,
Or otherwise in bed, or at board,
Offend each other in deed or word;
Or since the parish clerk said Amen,
Wished yourselves unmarried again,
Or in a twelve-month and a day,
Repented not in thought any way,
But continued true, and in desire,
As when you join'd hands in Holy Choir;
If to these conditions without all fear,
Of your own accord you will freely swear,
A gammon of bacon you shall receive,
And carry it hence with love and free leave:
For this is our custom at Dunmow well known,
Tho' the sport be ours the bacon's your own.

It appears by an old record, that Richard Wright of Norfolk in 1465, and S. Samuel of Little Eaton in 1465, and Thomas Lee of Coxhall in Essex 1511, took this oath, and received their bacon. Randolph Peveril at Hartfield Peveril, in great esteem with King Edward the Confessor, married the daughter of Ingerick his Kinsman, of great nobility among the English Saxons; this lady was so beautiful that she conquered William the Conqueror, who to obtain her enriched St. Martin's le Grand in London, founded by her father and uncle King Edward: preferred her two brothers, William Peveril to be keeper of Dover Castle, and Pain was made Baron of Bourn in Cambridgeshire; he solicited her by the messengers of the devil's bed-chamber, subtle pimps and bawds, and visited her (like Jupiter) in a golden shower; by these allurements from a King, she was brought to his bed, unto whom she bore a son named William, who was Lord of Nottingham; but his mother touched with remorse

of conscience, to expiate her guilt founded a nunnery at Harpsfield to St. Mary Magdalen, wherein she spent her days.

In 1171, at St. Osyth's was seen a dragon of wonderful bigness, which wherever it moved, burnt the houses.

King Edward III. commanded Hubert de Burg, Earl of Kent, to be apprehended, who having notice, rose at midnight, and fled into a church in Essex; the officers found him on his knees before the high altar, with the popish sacrament in one hand, and the cross in the other, yet they seized and carried him prisoner to the Tower of London: Roger Niger, then bishop, made complaint to the King of this violence done to the holy church, and would not be satisfied till the Earl was carried back to the church again, though well guarded there; however this saved the Earl's life, for the King's anger cooled, and he was reconciled to him.

In 1510, in Dengey hundred near Southminster, mice over-run those marshes, tearing up the grass by the roots, and poisoned it with their venomous teeth, so that the cattle which grazed there died; at length a number of strange painted owls came, no man knew whence, and devoured all the mice.

There happened the like in Essex. In 1548, forty-four persons suffered martyrdom in this county, among whom was William Hunter, a young man of nineteen years old, born of religious parents, who instructed him in the truth, and sent him apprentice to London, where refusing to go to mass, he went home to his parents at Brentwood; and going into a chapel there, found a bible, which whilst he was reading, a sumner came in, and asked him, "Whether he could expound the scripture?" he answered, "he did only read it to his comfort." The Sumner replied, "it was never a merry world since the bible came forth in English." Hunter answered, "say not so, for God's sake, for it is God's book, out of which every one ought to learn how to please God; and I pray God that we may have the blessed bible amongst us." "Ay," said the sumner, "I know your mind well enough; you are one of those that do not like the Queen's laws, but you and many more must turn over a new leaf, or else you will broil for it." "Pray God give me grace, said Hunter, that I may believe his word and confess his name, whatever comes of it." "Nay," said the sumner, "you confess the devil's name, and will all go to him." The sumner then fetched a priest out of a blind ale-house, who finding Hunter reading, reviled him, what he thought of the blessed sacrament of the altar, whether it were not really Christ's body and blood? Hunter said, "he found no such thing in

scripture." "Ah," quoth the vicar, "now I find you are an heretic." Hunter replied, "would you and I were both tied to the stake, to try which of us would stick closest to our faith." The Priest informing against him, he was brought before Bishop Bonner, who finding him firm to his principles, set him in the stocks in his gate-house, where he lay two days with a crust of brown bread, and a cup of cold water: after imprisonment three quarters of a year, the Bishop condemned and sent him to Brentwood to be burnt, where his father and mother came to him, beseeching God he might continue constant to the end; his mother added, she was happy in having such a child, who could find in his heart to lose his life for Christ's sake. At the stake he kneeled down and read the 51st psalm. Then the sheriff said, here is a letter from the Queen, if thou wilt recant thou shalt live, otherwise thou shalt be burnt. No quoth William, I will never recant; and so he was fastened to the stake: He then said good people pray for me while you see me alive; adding, Son of God shine upon me; and the sun immediately shone out of a thick cloud so full in his face that he was forced to turn his head aside. Fire being kindled he lift up his hands to Heaven, saying Lord! Lord! receive my spirit; and so ended his life in the flames.

J. Lawrence was burnt at Colchester whose legs being lame with irons, and his body weak with cruel usage, he was carried to the stake in a chair, and burnt therein. Many young children about the fire crying out to him, Lord strengthen thy servant and keep thy promise; which seemed an effect of divine providence, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings had ordained strength. Thomas Hawks gentleman was troubled for refusing to baptize his child after the popish fashion. This man going to the stake, promised his friends to give them some solemn token of the comfort of his conscience; so whilst his body was burning, he raised up himself, and having the sense, yet no fear of the fire, joyfully clapped his hands over his head, to the admiration of all.

There was an idol called the Rood of Dover court, to which multitudes went in pilgrimage: divers zealous protestants at Dedham, much trouddled to see this wicked idolatry, went in a frosty moon shine night, ten miles to the place where this idol was, they found the church doors open, the priests boasting the power of this rood was such, that no man could shut them. These persons took the image, and carrying it a quarter of a mile off, there burnt it; for which three of them were hanged in chains. In 1605, a great Porpus was taken at Westham, in a little creek alive, a mile and an half within the land, and a few days after a Whale came up the Thames, whose length was judged to

exceed the largest ships in the river ; but tasting the fresh water ; she returned to sea. This county hath 20 hundreds, 21 market towns and 15 parishes ; it elects 8 parliament men.

GLOCESTERSHIRE

Hath Worcester and Warwick north ; Oxford and Wiltshire east ; Somerset south ; Hereford, with the river Wye west. Malmsbury, the old historian thus describes it ; the grounds of this shire throughout, saith he, yield plenty of corn and fruits, one through the natural goodness of the ground, the other by diligent manuring and tillage, so that it would provoke the most lazy to take pains ; here the highways and lanes are full of apple and pear trees, not ingrafted by the industry of man, but growing up naturally ; the ground itself is so inclined to bear fruit ; and those in taste and beauty far exceeding others, and will endure till a new supply come ; there is not any county in England so thick set with vineyards as this, so plentiful of increase, and so pleasant in taste ; the wines made thereof are little inferior to the French, the houses are innumerable, the churches fair, and the towns very thick, but that which adds a greater glory to it, is the River Severn, not any in the kingdom exceeding it for breadth, swiftness, or store of fish ; there is in it a daily gulph or whirlpool of waves raising up sands from the bottom, driving them upon heaps, and sometimes overflowing its banks a great way on the bordering grounds, and then returns into its usual channel ; unhappy is the vessel which it taketh full upon the side, but the watermen being aware of it when they see it coming, turn their vessels, and cutting through the midst of it, avoid the danger ; this encounter of the salt and fresh water, is called the higre, and by some the eager, for its fierceness, which is terrible with the flashing and noise to those that see and hear it, much more to some who feel it, of which no reason can be rendered, since the Thames wherein is the same cause hath no such disturbance. Here how the poet describes this Higre.

Until they be embraced
 In Severn's sovereign arms with those tumultuous waves,
 Shut up in narrow bounds, the Higre wildly raves,
 And frights the stragling flocks, the neighbouring shores to fly,
 As far as from the main it comes with hediuous cry,
 And on the angry front the curled foam doth bring
 The billows against the banks when fiercely it doth fling,

Throws up the slimy ouze, and makes the scaly brood,
Leap madding to the land, affrighted from the flood;
O'erturns the toiling barge, whose steersman doth not launch,
And thrust the furrowing beak into her dreadful paunch.

In the second year of the reign of King Richard the III^d. when the Duke of Buckingham intended to pass his army over the Severn, there was so great an inundation that men were drowned in their beds, houses overturned, children carried about the fields, swimming in their cradles, and beasts drowned even upon the hills; which continued ten days, and is still called The Great Water. In 1575, Feb. 24. being a hard frost after a flood, there came down the Severn a swarm of flies and beetles, judged to be about an hundred quarters; the mills were damned up with them for four days, and then cleansed by digging them out with shovels. In 1607, a mighty West wind continuing 16 hours, brought the Sea into the Severn (after a great rain and a spring tide) with such violence that it began to overflow its banks from the Mount in Cornwall along on both sides into Somerset and Gloucestershire. In some places the water rose 3 foot, in others 5 and 7, and in some towns and villages higher than the tops of the houses; so that 80 persons were drowned, much cattle, divers churches and parishes overwhelmed, with much harm in Wales, the damages being reckoned above 20000 pounds.

In 755, Kenwulf, King of the West Saxons, giving himself up to debauchery, coming to Merton to visit a wench he kept, was there slain, and buried at Winchester. About 1020, Godwin the subtle Earl of Kent, cast a covetous eye on the Nunnery of Berkley in Gloucestershire, so he left there a handsome young man, seemingly sick, for their charity to recovery. The Abbess was a fine noble lady; Godwin gives the young man charge so long to counterfeit till he had debauched the abbess and as many nuns as he could, and left him rings, jewels, girdles, and such toys, to give them when they came to visit him; the young man willing to undergo such a task, so played his part, that in a short time he accomplished his purpose, and then told his lord how he had fared; the Earl goes and tells the king that such a nunnery was become a bawdy house, procures a visitation, gets them turned out, and begs the land. This Godwin had a mind to another rich manor in Sussex, called Bosham, and complimented it out of the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury; for coming to him he said, Da mihi Basium, give me a buss or kiss, an usual favour from a prelate; the Arch-Bishop answers, Da tihi Basium, I give thee a kiss, and kissed him; upon which Godwin goes to Bosham, and takes possession thereof; and though

here was no intention in him that passed it away, nor valuable consideration, but a mere circumvention, yet such was Godwin's power, and the Arch-Bishop's poorness of spirit, that he quietly enjoyed it. These rich manors of Berkley and Boscham are both now met in the Earl of Berkley, his ancestors being long since possessed of them. In 1276, the monastery of Gloucester was burnt, in King Henry VIIIth's time, James, son to sir Alexander Bainham, of this county, was burnt for religion; he was bred in learning, of a religious conversation, much addicted to prayer, and a diligent reader of the holy scriptures. He studied the law, wherein he was merciful to his clients, ready to give counsel to widows, fatherless, and afflicted, without a reward; at last he was complained of to Sir Thomas Moore, Lord Chancellor, who

at his house at
ed with frowns
withdraw him
which not pre-
sed him to be
a garden (called
of truth,) and
him; this not
saw him racked
he was lamed,
would not ac-
tance, nor dis-
then was his
and his goods
at last he was
jure, and carried
faggot in Saint
but hereby he
ed than escaped
a fire in his con-
could not be
asked God and
giveness in a
gregation, who

a warehouse in Bow Lane; on the Lord's day he went to St. Austin's, the next parish to St. Paul's, that the antidote might be brought near the place of poison, where standing up with a New Testament in his hand, he declared before all the people with tears, that he had denied God, and prayed all the congregation to be warned by his



SIR T. MOORE.

Chelsea, labour-
and flatteries to
from the truth,
vailing, he cau-
tied to a tree in
by him the tree
cruelly scourged
succeeding, he
in the Tower till
because he
cuse his acquaint-
cover his books;
wife imprisoned,
confiscated, yet
persuaded to ab-
a torch and a
Paul's Church;
rather exchange
fire, feeling such
science that he
quiet till he had
the world for-
Protestant com-
met privately in

fall not to do the like ; for, said he, if I should not return again to the truth, this word of God (holding up the Testament) would damn me both body and soul in the day of judgment ; and intreated them all, rather to die presently, than to do as he had done, for he would not feel such a hell in his conscience again, for all the world ; for this he was apprehended again and cruelly handled ; the Bishop of London putting him in the stocks, and whipping him barbarously a fortnight, to force him again to recant, but all in vain, so he was condemned to be burnt, and in the midst of the flames, which had half consumed his arms and legs, he spake these words ; “ Oh you Papists, behold “ you look for miracles, and here now you may see a miracle, for in “ this fire I feel no more pain than if I were in a bed of down or “ roses.”

William Dangerfield of this county (with his wife) was imprisoned and so cruelly used, that his legs was almost eaten up with the irons ; after awhile the Bishop sent and told him his wife had recanted, who was as well learned as he, and persuaded him to sign a recantation, which they brought ; having signed if they let him go to his wife, and shewing his recantation, her heart was ready to break, crying out, “ Alas husband, thus long we have continued ope, and hath Satan now so far prevailed with you, as to cause you to break your vow which you made to God in your baptism ?” this so wrought with him that he repented of his apostacy, and soon after through extreme cruelty they both died in prison.

In 1575, February 16th, an earthquake happened in Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, York, Bristol, &c. the people running out of their houses for fear. In Tewkesbury, Bredon, and other places, dishes, and books in studies fell down ; in Norton Chapel the people being at prayers, and feeling the ground move, ran out. Part of Rithing Castle fell down, with divers brick chimnies in gentlemen's houses.

In 1650, November 30, about sun-rise, the sky opened in the S. W. over Standish, five miles from Gloucester, and there appeared a terrible fiery sword, shaking with the point downward ; the hilt seemed blue, the sword of great length, moving to and fro, and coming lower toward the earth ; there was a long flame of fire toward the point, sparkling and flaming, to the astonishment of the spectators ; at last the heavens closing, the sword vanished, and the fire fell to the earth, and ran upon the ground.

Gloucester is the chief city, stretched out over the Severn. The cathedral is beautiful, consisting of a continued window work, but bath

the loudest praises from the whispering place within, thus described by Mr. F. Bacon; there is a church at Gloucester, saith he, where if you speak against a wall softly, another shall hear your voice better a great way off than near at hand; I suppose there is some vault, or aisle behind the wall, and some passage to it toward the further end of that wall, against which you speak, so as the voice of him that speaketh, slideth along the wall, and then entereth in at some passage, and communicateth with the air of the hollow; for it is somewhat preserved by the plain wall, but that is too weak to give an audible sound till it hath communicated with the back air. In this church lies the unfortunate Robert Duke of Normandy, eldest son to William the Conqueror, in a painted wooden tomb in the choir, whose eyes were burnt out in Cardiff Castle, where he was prisoner twenty-six years. Here also the unhappy King Edward II. lies under a monument of alabaster, deposed by Parliament, who setting at London sent several bishops, lords, and gentlemen, in the name of the state to Kenilworth Castle, to represent to him, that the Commonwealth had such an irreconcilable dislike of his government, the particulars whereof had been opened at the general assembly at London, that they were resolved he should be King no longer: that yet these dislikes had not extended so far, as for his sake to exclude his issue; but that with universal applause, the Parliament had elected his eldest son Edward for their King: that it would be acceptable to God, if he willingly gave over an earthly kingdom for the good of his country, which they said could not otherwise be secured: that his honor would be never the less after his resignation than before; only the commonwealth would not suffer him to reign any longer: and finally they presumed to tell him, that unless he did freely renounce his crown, the people would neither endure him, nor any of his children for their sovereigns; but disclaiming all homage and fealty, would elect one for their King of another blood and family. The King having heard of their message, fell down as half dead; but being somewhat recovered, not to himself, but to a sense of his misery, he brake forth into sighs and tears: and being (saith Sir Thomas de la More) more ready to sacrifice his body for Christ's cause, than to behold the disinheriting of his sons, or occasion the perpetual disturbance of the kingdom, as knowing that a shepherd should lose his life for his flock, answered thus; that he knew that for his many sins he was fallen into this calamity, and therefore hath the less cause to take it grievously; that he was sorry the people of the kingdom were so exasperated against him, as utterly to abhor his having any longer the sovereignty over them; but yet it was

greatly to his liking, seeing it could be no otherwise on his behalf, that his eldest son was so gracious in their sight; and gave them thanks for chusing him their King.

This being said, they proceeded to the short ceremonies of his resignation, which consisted principally in the surrender of the crown, and other ensigns of majesty, for the use of his son the new King Edward. Being thus unkinged, the Ambassadors returned joyfully to the Parliament at London, with the resigned ensigns, and an account of their employment: he being now deprived of his royalty, crown and dignity, remained with his kinsman the Earl of Leicester, shut up like a monk; but his cruel wife Queen Isabel, who had been the great instrument of his misfortunes, being told by her wicked counsellor Adam Tarlton, Bishop of Hereford, that the Earl was too kind to him, she ordered Thomas Gourney and John Maltravers to take the King into their custody, who carried him from Kenilworth to Corff Castle, and then to Bristol, where they shut him up in the Castle; till upon discovery of a design to send him beyond the sea, they conveyed him to Berkley Castle; by the way these villains exercised divers cruelties towards him, not permitting him to ride but by night, that he might not be seen of any, forcing him to ride bare headed, when he would have slept they hindered him, neither would give him such meat as he could eat, but such as he most loathed; they contradicted him in every thing he said, persuading him he was mad, and endeavoured by all ways to break his heart; yea, they often gave him poison in his drink, but the strength of nature overcame it; one put a crown of hay on his head, the rest made a scorn of him; they were afraid any of his friends should meet him, and to prevent his being known, resolved to cut off his hair and beard, coming by a ditch commanded him off his horse to be shaven, the setting him on a mole-hill, a barber came to shave him with a bason of cold water out of the ditch, telling him that must serve at present; the miserable King looking sternly upon him, answered, that whether they would or no, he would have warm water for his beard; and to make good his word, he shed forth a shower of tears. At length he was brought to Berkley Castle, and courteously received by Thomas Berkley, Lord thereof, who was allowed a hundred shillings a day for keeping him prisoner. But Queen Isabel being troubled that her husband lived, consults again with the wicked Bishop of Hereford, pretending that she had frightful dreams, that if her husband should be restored, he would burn her for a traitor, or banish her; the Bishop and others of the nobility and clergy finding themselves equally guilty, became uneasy

while the king lived, and sent chiding letters to the keeper, pretending they gave him too much liberty, and kept him too high: the Bishop adding this line at the end;

"Edwardum accidere nolite timere bonum est."

"To shed King Edward's blood
Refuse to fear, I count it good."

Never was the fallacy of pointings, or ambiguity of phrase more mischievously used for the destruction of a king, or defence of the contrivers, being so craftily worded in a double sense, that the keepers might find sufficient warrant, and himself sufficient excuse. The keepers guessing at the meaning, took it in the worst sense, and putting Lord Berkley out of the castle, shut up the King in a close chamber; where, with the stench of dead carcasses in the cellar underneath him, he was almost poisoned; of which he made complaint to some carpenters who worked at his window; but these wretches perceiving this would not do, they rushed one night into his chamber, and casting as many bolsters on him as fifteen men could carry, pressed them down hard, and not content with that, heated an iron spit red hot, and thro' a pipe like a trumpet thrust it up his body, that no marks of a violent death might be seen; but they were heard, for when thus doubly murdering him, he was heard to roar all the castle over. Gourney and Maltravers, his murderers, expecting rewards, had the reward of murderers, for the Queen and Bishop Tarleton disavowing the command, threatened to question them for the King's death, so they fled beyond the sea, and Gourney, three years after being taken in France, and sent for England, was in the way upon the sea beheaded; Maltravers flying into Germany, had the grace to repent, but lived miserably. Thus died this unfortunate prince, in 1327, half a year after his deposing. Never was any king turned out of a kingdom in such a manner: many kingdoms have been lost by the chance of war; but this before the dice were cast, no blow struck, no battle fought, done forcibly, and yet without force; violently, and yet with consent; both parties agreed, yet neither pleased: for the King was not pleased to leave his kingdom, and the Queen was not pleased to leave him his life, though he often declared, nothing grieved him so much as that the Queen his wife would never be persuaded to come and see him; and swore devoutly, that he could never like any other woman; if so neither Gavestone nor the Spencers, his wicked favourites, had so far debauched him, as to make him disloyal to his queen; but she thinking not safe

to leave him a part whereby he might discover the whole, it occasioned his miserable end.

Glocester hath 30 hundreds, 26 market towns, 280 churches, and elects eight parliament men.

HAMPSHIRE

Hath Berkshire, north; Surry and Sussex, east; the Sea, south; Dorsetshire and Wiltshire, west; from north to south, is 54 miles, and from east to west, 30. It is fruitful in corn and pasture, and hath all the advantages of the sea, also wool, cloth, and iron; Winchester city flourished in the time of the Romans, and indifferently peopled; it is about a mile and a half within the walls, hath six gates, several magnificent churches, and is a Bishop's see. Dr. Heylin says, the Order of the Knights of the Round Table, was instituted by Arthur King of Britain, one of the world's nine worthies. It consisted of 150 knights, the names of the principal were Sir Lancelot, Sir Tristram, Sir Lancelot, Sir Gawen, &c. all placed at one round table to avoid quarrels about priority, and the round table in the great Hall at Winchester, is falsely called Arthur's, it being not of sufficient antiquity, nor containing but 24 seats.

In 959, Edgar the Saxon King, hearing the daughter of a Western Duke praised for her beauty, was so inflamed that he made a journey into those parts, and coming to Andover commanded the Virgin to be brought to his bed; the mother, tender of her daughter's honour, brought her maid in the dark to the King. In the morning, this late maid made haste to rise; the King loth to part with his supposed fair lady asked why she made such haste; who told him, she had a deal of work to do, and that her lady would be angry if she did not rise and dispatch it; but being kept longer than her time, she upon her knees beseeched him to free her from her angry mistress, alledging, that she who had been embraced by the King, ought not to serve any other. He perceiving the deceit, reproved the Lady, and turned it into a jest; but the girl pleased him so well, that he made her his concubine, whereby she ruled over them who lately commanded her, and loved her intirely, keeping to her alone till he was married to the fair Elfrida; he debauched a nun named Wolfchild, on whom he begat Edith, after counted a Saint. He did the like with Ethelfleda, D. Ordmar's daughter, who for her beauty was called the white, on whom he begat his eldest son Edward; for which 7 years penance was enjoined him by St. Dunstan.

X This Edward succeeded him at 12 years old, in whose reign was a miserable famine and murrain of cattle; and a fearful comet appeared, all thought to be signs of divine pleasure, for the wrong done to the married clergy, who were turned out of their livings, only for having wives according to the law of God. The unmarried Priests said, that Christ respected neither the person nor the place, but had only regard to those that took up the Cross of penance and followed him; but they little understood the incumbrance of marrying, else they would have felt the condition of married men was more truly taking up the cross and enduring penance, than their careless single life.

The churchmen being divided, the nobles and others took part on either side, and both raised forces in their own defence; the fire was blown from a spark to a flame, but by mediation arms were laid aside, and the cause was referred to a council at Winchester, where after a long debate, when it was like to go against the unmarried monks, it was determined by a rood, or image of a man that stood against the wall, by the persuasion of the great oracle St. Dunstan, who bid them pray devoutly, and give diligent ear for an answer; the idol being as good natured as they were devout, was easily persuaded to give them this advice, "God forbid it should be so, God forbid it should be so; you have judged well once, and to change that again is not good;" this was authority sufficient to suppress the married priests, who now with their wives went down the wind. Yet they made another attempt; for persuading the people this was but a trick of the monks, who placed a man behind the wall, that with a trunk spoke through the mouth of the rood, they desired the cause might be heard once more; this at last was appointed at Cleve in Wiltshire, whither the prelates, nobles, gentlemen and commons came; the council being sat, and the controversy growing hot, either by the weakness of the foundation, or weight of the people, the chamber where they sat fell down, and the multitude with it, many were hurt, and some killed; only Archbishop Dunstan escaped, for the post whereon the chair was sat stood firm, which the monks said was a miracle, he being their mouth against the married priests, whose cause fell with this fall, and the people's affections being drawn from them, they had liberty now to accompany with their wives without cure, though not without care; and all this happened by the preservation of Dunstan upon the post, which yet is not so strange since the monks report, that the beam of his house being sunk once out of its place, and the whole building like to fall and knock him on the head, he made it return into its place, only by making the sign of

the cross thereon with his finger; so powerful was he in such wooden miracles, yea, his very harp could do miracles, as when of itself it sung a hymn melodiously; and the Virgin Mary is said to have come to solace him with her songs, and angels used to sing familiarly with him; he whipped devils that came in the shape of dogs, foxes and bears; but his greatest exploit was, when the devil knowing he was unmarried, came to tempt him in the shape of a handsome brisk wench, for the saint got her by the nose with a pair of hot burning pincers, and thereby spoiled a good face, making her roar dreadfully. Thus these sottish monks deluded the people with ridiculous stories, which rather disgraced than honoured those whom they designed to magnify.

Southampton is populous and rich, from which the county derives its name: the famous King Canute's flatterers persuaded him he was greater than Alexander, Cæsar or Cyrus, and had more than human power; to convince these fawning courtiers, being at Southampton, he commanded his chair of state to be set on the shore when the sea began to flow, and setting down in the presence of his attendants, he spake thus, "Thou sea art part of my dominion, and the ground whereon I set is mine, neither was there ever any that durst disobey my command, or breaking it escaped unpunished, I charge thee therefore that thou presume not to come upon my land, nor wet these royal robes of thy lord that are about me." The sea not heeding his threats, but keeping its usual course first wet his skirts, and then his thighs, who rising up, thus spake in the hearing of them all, "Let all the world's inhabitants know, that vain and weak is the power of their Kings, and that none is worthy of the name King, but he that keeps both heaven and earth, and sea in obedience, and bindeth them in an everlasting law of subjection." After this he would never suffer the crown to be set upon his head, but crowned therewith the picture of our Saviour on the cross at Winchester. This King reigned nineteen years in glory, died at Shaftsbury, and was buried in the old Monastery at Winchester, to which he gave many rich jewels; one was a cross, said to be worth all the revenues of England in one year; this church being new built, his bones with other Saxon Kings were taken up, and preserved in gilt coffers in the choir thereof.

In 1053, King Edward the Confessor dispossessed his mother Queen Emma of all her estate, because after his father's death she married King Canute, and seemed to favour her children by him more than the former, and committed her to the Abbey of Worwell; yea, he so far hearkened to an aspersion of her unchastity with Alwin Bishop

of Winchester, that to clear herself she was fain to pass the trial of ordeal in this manner; nine ploughshares red hot were laid at unequal distance, which over bare foot and if unhurt innocent; this passed without astonishment of this speech to Lord when shall place of my pur- having her eyes seeing herself on her knees, gave thanks to whereby she re- nouri, and in gave 9 manors of Winchester, ber of plough- was as unkind to his mother, ried Editha, the virtuous daugh- win, because he he would shew the daughter,



KING EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.

she must pass and blindfold, she was judged terrible trial she damage, to the them all, using her leaders; "O I come to the gation?" - But uncovered, and escaped, she fell and with tears her deliverer, covered her ho- memory thereof to the Minster being the num- shares; this king to his wife, as for having mar- beautiful and ter of Earl God- hated the father, no kindness to conversing with

her as his wife, only at board, but not at bed, or no otherwise than David with Abishag, and yet was content to hear her accused of incontinency, whereof if she were guilty, she could not be innocent, so that the virtues for which after his death he was reputed a saint, do not easily appear; it seems he was chaste, but not without injury to his wife; pious, but not without ingratitude to his mother; just in his present government, but not without neglect of posterity, for through his want of providence he left the crown so doubtful, that after his decease it was translated out of English into French, and the kingdom made servile to a foreign nation.

In 1184, a priest at Andover, praying before the altar, was slain with thunder; likewise one Clark and his brother were burnt to death with lightning; and a shower of blood rained in the Isle of Wight for two hours together.

In 1250, King Henry III. whose nature seemed violent in every thing, designing to advance his half brother Ethelmare to the Bishoprick of Winchester, he was not satisfied in sending a strict command to the monks to choose him, but goes to Winchester, in person, and the Clergy being met, he gets up into the pulpit, and preaches a sermon on this text; Justice and Peace have kissed each other. From whence he raised this doctrine, that whereas the rigour of Judgment and Justice belonged to him and other Kings, who were to rule the nations, so quiet, peace and tranquility belonged to the Clergy, and this day, saith he, I hope they will both kiss each other, for I doubt not but both for your own good, and at my desire, you will choose my brother to be Bishop; with other words to that purpose, whereby the monks perceiving his earnestness, elected Ethelmare; but being no Priest, they did it with this reservation, if the Pope did allow thereof; but the King, exacted 500 marks for his confirmation, which made Mat. Paris a monk, utter this lamentation, "O Pope the chief of bishops, why dost thou thus suffer the christian world to be defiled, worthily art thou driven out of thine own City and See, and like a renegado, and another Cain, art inforced to wander up and down; O thou God of just vengeance, when wilt thou draw forth thy sword, and imbrue it in the blood of such wretched oppressors?" The Pope was then fled from Rome, for fear of the Emperor of Germany, and though he would neither reform these grand abuses in himself nor others, yet Rob. Groshead, the stout and learned Bishop of Lincoln, resolved to reform the monks and friars; but they appealing to the power, the Bishop plainly told him, that all offenders escaped punishment, because his heart was so open, and ready to receive bribes from them; the Pope dismiss him with reproachful words; he was then at Lyons, where a while the council breaking up, Cardinal Hugo preached a farewell sermon to citizens; and among other benefits which they had reaped by the Pope's residence in their City, reckoned up this for a principal one, that whereas at their coming to town there were but 3 or 4 bawdy houses in Lyons, now at their departure they left only one, but indeed that reached from one end of the City to the other; so that France had some part of the Pope's blessings as well as England. But the people had no good opinion of the proceedings of King, Henry against the Lords and the Church, and not only men, but women reprehended him for the same; for Isabel, widow to the Earl of Arundel, a young lady, having received a repulse in a matter which she alledged was hers in equity, presumed to speak thus to his face; O my Lord King, why do you turn away from Justice? We cannot now obtain right in your Court, you are placed as a middle person

between God and us, but you neither govern us, nor yourself, neither are you afraid to vex the Church divers ways, nor by several oppressions to afflict the Nobles of the Kingdom.

The King being fired at this free discourse, looking on her with a scornful countenance, spake thus with a loud voice, "O my Lady Countess, what have the Lords of England given you a charter and hired you to be their advocate and orator, because they know you have your tongue at will?" "No my Lord," said the Countess, "they have made me no Charter, but the Charter which your father made, and which you yourself confirmed, swearing to keep the same inviolably, and often extorting money upon promise that the liberties therein should be faithfully observed, which yet you have not kept, but have broken without regard to honour or conscience, thereof you are found to be a manifest violater of your Faith and Oath; for where are now the liberties of England so often fairly ingrossed in writing, so often granted, so often bought and paid for? I therefore a woman, and all the loyal people of the land, appeal against you to the tribunal of the Dreadful Judge, and Heaven and Earth shall hear us witness that we are used unjustly, and God, the Lord of Revenges, right us." The King surprized at these words, asked if she did not look to obtain her suit upon favour, since she was his kinswoman; she replied, "that seeing he denied what the law gave, how could she hope to obtain her suit by favour?" therefore said she, "I do appeal to the presence of Christ against those also of your counsellors, who bewitch and dull your judgment, and draw you out of the path of truth, gaping only after their own advantage." But the King remained incorrigible, and the Lady lost her charges, hopes and travel.

In 1255, King Henry III. kept his Christmas at Winchester, where new grievances arose; the merchants of Gascoign having their wines taken from them by his officers, without satisfaction, complain to the Prince, he to his father, who being told their clamour was unjust, as relying on the Prince, he said, see now, my blood and my own bowels oppose me: the Prince's servants likewise relying on their master, commit many outrages, neither was the Prince free; for it is said, he caused the ears of a young man to be cut off, and his eyes to be plucked out as he travelled, which occasioned great disturbances.

In this king's reign, a child was born in the Isle of Wight, who at 18 years old was scarce three feet high, whom the Queen carried about with her as a monster in nature.

In the reign of King Edward III. Southampton was fired by the French, under the King of Sicily's son, a countryman encountered and

knocked him down with his club, the Prince cried out, *rancon, rancon*, (that is, he would pay him a ransom) but he neither understanding his language nor the law of arms, laid on more severely, saying, I know thee to be Francon, (or Frenchman) and thou shalt die, and so killed him.

In 1534, the conditions of marriage between Queen Mary and King Philip of Spain, were agreed to in Parliament upon these articles:

1. That King Philip should admit of no stranger in office, but only natives.
2. That he should alter nothing of the laws and customs of the kingdom.
3. That he should not carry the Queen out of the realm without her own consent, nor any of her children without consent of the council.
4. That if he outlived the Queen, he should challenge no right to the kingdom, but it should descend to the next heir.
5. That he should carry none of the crown jewels out of the kingdom, nor any ships or ordnance.

Lastly, that neither directly or indirectly, he should en-
in the wars
and France. It
posed in Par-
supremacy of
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Edward VI. had
ation of the Pro-
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riage thus a-
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Spain, who ar-
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peror's Ambass-
that in consi-
marriage, the Emperor had given to King Philip his son, the
Kingdom of Naples and Jerusalem, and Garter King at arms, in
the church, in the presence of the King and Queen and nobles, both



B: CALVERT.

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between Spain
was also pro-
liament, that the
the Pope should
which was as-
difficulty; for
reign of King
spread a plant-
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many. The mar-
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the Prince from
rived at South-
20, 1554, and
Queen at Win-
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rity of years in
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old. The Em-
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of Spain and England, proclaimed the title and style of these two Princes, Philip and Mary, by the Grace of God, King and Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Princes of Spain and Sicily, Arch-dukes of Austria, Dukes of Milan, Burgundy and Brabant, Counts of Habsburg, Flanders and Tyrol.

In the year 1608, at Christ's Church, one J. Hitchel, a carpenter, lying in bed with his wife and a young child, was himself and child both burnt to death with lightning, no fire appearing outwardly upon him, and yet he lay burning almost three days, till quite consumed to ashes. In 1619, one Bernard Calvert of Andover, rid from St. George's Church in Southwark to Dover, and thence passed to Calais in France, and returned back to St. George's Church the same day, setting out at three in the morning, and returning about eight at night fresh and lusty.

Portsmouth is a convenient port; the Isle of Wight belongs to this County. It hath 39 hundreds, 253 parishes, and elects 26 parliament men.

HARTFORDSHIRE,

So called from the chief town, as Hartford is from the Ford of Harts, a Hart couchant in the water being their arms. It hath Essex, east; Middlesex, south; Buckingham, west; Cambridge, north. It is rich in corn, meadows, groves, and rivers, and indeed the gar- den of England for delight; it is usually said, "that such as buy a house in Hertfordshire, pay two years for the purchase for the air; no county in England can shew so many good towns in so little compass; in so their teams of horses are oft advanced from the cart to the coach, being kept in excellent equipage, much alike in colour and stature, fat and dressing them; and to make an innocent di- gression, I could name the per- son, saith Dr. Fuller, who had his servant be- fore a Justice, for stealing his oats and barley,



EDM: SPENCER.

the man brought his five horses along with him, alledging, that if he were the thief, these were the receivers, and so escaped. The most famous antiquity is Verolanium, now ruined, and the footsteps hardly seen, though in great account with the Romans, and one of their free cities; it was plundered by Boadica, that eternized Queen of the Icenians, when 70000 Romans perished by her revenging sword. The magnificence thereof for stately architecture was discovered by the large arched vaults found by King Edgar, which were filled up by Eldred and Edmer, Abbots of St. Albans, being lurking holes for whores and thieves. Hear what our famous Spencer says of it: X

I was that City which the garland wore,
Of Britain's pride delivered unto me,
By Roman victors; this I was of yore;
Though nought at all but ruins now I be,
And lie in mine own ashes as yon see.
Verlam I was; what boots it that I was,
Since now I am but weeds and useless grass?

Another English poet writes thus in the name of Watling, one of the four imperial highways.

Thou saw'st when Verlam once her head aloft did rear,
Which in her cinders now lies sadly buried here,
With alabaster, tuch, and porphyry adorn'd,
When well near in her pride Troynovant she scorn'd.

A nameless author writes thus upon it:

Stay thy foot that passest by,
And a wonder here descry;
Churches that interr'd the dead,
Here themselves are buried,
Houses where men slept and wak'd,
Here in ashes under-rak'd.
And (to the poet to allude)
Here is corn where once Troy stood:
Or if you the truth would have,
Here's a city in a grave.
A wonder, reader, think it then,
That cities thus should die like men;
And yet a wonder think it none,
For many cities are thus gone.

Out of the ruins of this city arose the town of St. Albans, remarkable for Alban the martyr, for about the year 180, King Lucius reigned in Britain, who hearing of the miracles done by the Christians in divers places, sent letters to Eleutherius, Bishop of Rome, desiring to receive the Christian faith; the good Bishop was glad of this request, and sent him two preachers, Faganus and Damianus, by whose faithful endeavours, it pleased God, the King and many of his people were converted and baptized, and the temples of idols and other monuments of Gentilism subverted; thus the true religion increased, and superstition and idolatry decreased, many bishops being ordained over the people, and all things settled in good order; after which this religious king sent again to Eleutherius for the Roman laws, by which he desired to govern his people; Eleutherius returned answer, that the Roman and Imperial laws might have their defects, but the law of God could not; advising him to study the scriptures, and out of them by the council of his realm, to enact laws for the government of his kingdom; for, saith he, you are God's vicar in your kingdom, and it behoves you to unite your people in the faith and service of Jesus Christ, and to maintain, rule, govern, and defend them from all that would do them wrong, &c. The Christian faith thus received by the Britons, flourished 216 years, till the coming of the Saxons; but the Romans continuing Heathens, raised much trouble against its professors; for Lucius dying without issue, and the nobles disagreeing about a successor, the Romans stepping in, took the Crown into their hands, whence great misery ensued to the Kingdom; for sometimes idolatrous Romans reigned, and then the christian Britons, according to the fortune of war: the first remarkable persecution was under Dioclesian and Maximin, which raged so extremely, that in Britany and other places 17000 martyrs suffered for the name of Christ: in this persecution a famous preacher called Amphibolus being searched for to be imprisoned, he to escape the fury of his persecutors hid himself in the house of Alban a citizen of Verulam, who was at that time a Heathen, but observing Amphibolus to continue day and night in watching and prayer, he began to hearken to the divine instructions of this good man, and forsaking idolatry became a sincere christain; the enemy hearing this minister was in his house, soldiers were ordered to search for him, which Alban having notice of, he put on the cloaths of Amphibolus, and offered himself to them, who bound and carried him before the judge at that time sacrificing to his idols; he perceiving the business, said, since thou hadst rather convey away the rebel and traitor to our Gods, than deliver him up to undergo due punishment for his blaspheming our

deities, look what torments he should have suffered if he had been taken, the same shalt thou endure if thou refuse to practice the rites of our religion; Alban regardless of these threats, with Divine fortitude, boldly told the judge, that he would not obey his commandment, Then said the judge, of what house and stock art thou? Alban answered, it is no matter of what stock I am, but if thou desirest to know my religion, be it known to thee that I am a Christian, and employ myself in the exercise of their holy religion; the judge demanded his name; my parents, said he, named me Alban, and I honour and worship the true and living God, who made all things of nothing. The judge enraged, said, if thou desirest to prolong thy life, come and sacrifice to our Gods; Alban answered, the sacrifice you offer to the Devil profits you nothing, but rather purchased for you eternal pains in Hell Fire: the judge still more incensed, commanded the tormentors to beat him, thinking stripes might prevail more than words; yet Alban continued not only patient but joyful in the midst of his torments; the judge perceiving nothing would move him, commanded him to be beheaded, the executioner observing his fervent faith and prayers, fell at his feet, throwing away his sword, desiring rather to die for him or with him than to do execution upon him, and so was made a martyr for that faith of which he was before a persecutor; the other officers trembled at this strange providence, but at last one of them took up the sword, and cut off the martyr Alban's head. In this town King Offa built a stately monastery upon this occasion.

In 795, Offa the eleventh King of the Mercians, married Queenrid, kinswoman to the French King Charlemagne the Great, who for some offence was banished his realm, being put into a boat without sail or tackle, and arriving on the coast of England, he was relieved by Queenrid, of whom he became so in love, that against the will of his parents he married her, she being proud, cruel and ambitious, as appears by the sequel; for Ethelbert, King of the East Angles, a religious Prince, coming to the court of King Offa to desire his daughter in marriage, with a train suitable to his quality; Queenrid envious of his grandeur, persuaded her husband that he had some treacherous design, so he with his council contrived his destruction, by causing him to fall into a deep pit under his chair of state, and then being alone, one Gimbert bound him, and struck off his head, which he presented to the King and Queen: thus was an innocent prince murdered, but divine justice followed the murderers, for the Queen died in three months, being so tormented in her sickness that she bit her tongue to pieces, which had been the instrument of this barbarity;

and Offa being convinced of the King's innocence, and the heinousness of the fact, gave the tenth part of his goods to the church, and built the Abbey of St. Albans, and other monasteries, and then went in penance to Rome, where he gave the Church of St. Peter, a penny from every house in his dominions, afterwards called Rome-shot, or Peter's-pence, and at last was transformed from a king to a monk. Thus the Almighty punished not only them, but the whole land for this horrid murder, in being made the Pope's vassals, for the clergy seldom parting with any thing they get, the English were forced to pay this unjust tax many hundred years after; the King and his son also died within a year, whereby that kingdom was translated from the Mercians to the West Saxons.

In the reign of King Henry III. the Abbot of St. Albans bid his servant fetch a man's wife in the town, with whom he pretended earnest business; the servant brought her, and the Abbot told her that her cloathes were mean, but if she would be ruled by him she should wear as good cloathes as any woman in the parish, and began to be brisk upon her, and finding persuasions would not prevail, endeavoured to force her, but all in vain, so he kept her several days prisoner in his chamber; her husband having notice, fetches her home, and tells his neighbours he will sue the Abbot for imprisoning his wife; which he hearing, prosecuted the poor man in the Ecclesiastical Court for defamation, and so frightened him from proceeding. Sir Thomas Moore (though a virulent Papist) reports a like story; that a poor man found a priest over familiar with his wife, and because he told it abroad, and had no witness to prove it, the priest sued him in the Bishops' Court, and the poor man, under the pain of excommunication, was enjoined to stand up in church the next Sunday, and say, "mouth thou liest;" so having repeated what he had reported of the priest, he put his hand to his mouth, and said, "mouth thou liest," and then laying his hands on his eyes, he said, "but eyes by the mass, yea lie not a whit." King Henry VII. made an act to punish the incontinency of priests, and Petrarch an Archdeacon thus anatomizes the Roman clergy, discovering the chastity of Popish bachelors.

Here Venus with her wanton toys,
Is honour'd with base bawds and boys;
Whoredom, adultery and incest,
Are honour'd here among the best;
And counted but for sports and plays,
Even with the prelates of these days:

The wife is ravish'd from her spouse,
And to the sons of th' church she bows;
The poor good man must leave the town,
Such ordinances are set down;
And when her belly riseth high,
By clergy-men who with her lie:
The husband must not dare complain,
But take his wife with child again.

In the reign of Henry VI. 1454, the Duke of York raised a great army, of which the King having notice, got his forces together, and marched to St. Albans; the Duke and his adherents desired the King to deliver such persons whom they would name, that they might be deservedly punished; the King resolutely answers, "that the Duke and his accomplices were traitors, and that rather than he would deliver up any lord then attending him, he himself would that day die in their defence." The Duke and Yorkists fell immediately upon the King's party, and the Earl of Warwick breaking through a garden, a sharp fight is begun, which ended with great loss on the King's side; the Dukes of Somerset, Buckingham, and his son, the Earls of Northumberland, Stafford, and the Lord Clifford being slain, with above 5000 soldiers; the King himself unguarded is left in a poor thatched house, whither he had retired from the danger of the arrows; the Duke of York having notice of it, goes with the Earls of Warwick and Salisbury, who upon their knees humbly petition him for pardon of what is past, for since the Duke of Somerset, the common enemy, is slain, they had what they aimed at; the King thoroughly affrighted, replied, "Let there be no more killing, and I will do what you will have me." After this a parliament was called, wherein the Duke of York was appointed protector of the King's person and the realm, though the King was thirty-five years old. In this battle of St. Alban, the King himself was shot in the neck with an arrow: in 1461, another battle was fought there between the Earl of March, son to the Duke of York, and the Queen of King Henry VI. for the Duke being slain at Wakefield, his son Edward Earl of March, getting his forces together, beat the Queen's army at Mortimer's Cross; before which battle it is said the sun appeared to the Earl of March like three suns, and suddenly joined together in one, for which he gave the sun in its full brightness for his arms; the Queen encouraged by the death of the Duke of York, raised some northern soldiers, and coming to St. Albans, the Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Warwick, with the forces

of the Earl of March, (King Henry being prisoner among them) encountered them, where after a stout resistance, the Queen's army routed the other, of which about two thousand were slain, and the King and Queen, and the Prince her son, met joyfully together, tho' their joy continued not long, King Henry being deposed soon after, and Edward IV. proclaimed king, by the assistance of the citizens of London, their wives being enamoured with the beautiful Earl of March.

Near Fishpool Street in St. Albans, certain anchors were lately digged up, which is strange, and is worth enquiry into. There is a brook near St. Albans, called Wenmere, or Womere, which never breaks out but it fortells scarcity or danger to ensue, as the vulgar believe.

At Ashwell arise so many springs together, that they presently drive a mill, and become a river.

Sir Henry Cary, kinsman to Queen Elizabeth, was made Baron of Hunsdon, a valiant man, and a lover of men of their hands,

cholerick, but Mr. Cole once this Lord, on grudge, gave the ear, Cole or four for it, Lord's servants Cole with their "you rogues," "cannot I and change a blow must interpose." rel was begun same minute. pressed a north- for which a letter returned him by postscript being her own hand,

"I doubt ry, whether the me more joyed were by God instrument of

assure you for my country's good the first might suffice, but for my heart's content, the second more pleaseh; it likes me not a little,



LORD HUNSDON.

not malicious: meeting him, some former him a box on returned three upon which the swarmed about drawn swords; said the Lord, my neighbour or two but you Thus the quar- and ended the This Lord sup- ern commotion, of thanks was the Queen, the all written of as followeth: much, my Har- victory given me, or that you appointed the my glory; I

that with a good testimony of your faith, there is seen stout courage of your mind, that more trusted to the goodness of your quarrel, than to the weakness of your number; well, I can say no more, *beatus est ille servus, quem cum dominus venerit, inveniet facientem sua mandata*; happy is the servant, whom, when his lord cometh, he shall find doing his commands:" that you may think you have done nothing for your profit, (though you have done much for your honour) I intend to make this journey somewhat increase your livelihood, that you may not say to yourself, *perditur quod factum est ingrato*; what is done for an ungrateful person is lost."

Your loving kinswoman,

ELIZ. Reg.

Three times was this lord in election to be Earl of Wiltshire, but some accident, still hindered it, when he lay on his death-bed the Queen visited him, causing his patent for that earldom to be drawn, his robes to be made, and both to be laid upon his bed; but this lord, who could never dissemble sick or well, said, "Madam, seeing you did not count me worthy of this honour while I was living, I count myself unworthy of it now I am dying:" he died in 1596.

This county hath eight hundreds, eighteen market towns, one hundred and twenty parishes, and elects six parliament men.

HEREFORDSHIRE

X (Hath Worcestershire and Shropshire, north; Gloucestershire, east; Monmouthshire, south; Brecknockshire and Radnorshire, west. The air is healthy, as appears by the inhabitants, many aged people, which in other countries are confined to their beds and chimney corners, are here found in the fields, both able and willing to work: Serjeant Hoskin entertained King James I. in this county, and provided ten aged people to dance the morris before him, all of them making up more than a thousand years, what was wanting in one being supplied in the age of another. This county excels in wood, wheat, wool, water, and excellent apples, of which the best cider is made. In a little fountain called Bonewell, near Richard's Castle, the water is full of the bones of fishes, or frogs, being so small as hardly to be distinguished, and can never be emptied of them, but as some are drawn out others succeed. Marcley Hill is in the east part, and began to open at six in the evening, and this hill with a rock under it

made at first a mighty bellowing noise, and then lifted itself up a great height, and began to travel, carrying along the trees which grew upon it, the sheep-folds and flocks of sheep abiding thereon; in the place whence it moved was a gaping distance forty feet wide, and eighty ells long; passing along it overthrew a chapel, removed a yew tree in the church-yard from west to east, thrust before it highways, houses, and trees, and made tilled ground pasture, and turned pasture into tillage: having walked from Sunday evening till Monday noon, it stood still and moved no more, mounting to a hill twelve fathoms high.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, Walter Bishop of Hereford, attempted the chastity of a sempstress, whom under pretence of working for him he brought into his chamber, but she resisting, wounded him in the belly with her scissors, whereof he died.

In 1233, before the wars between King Henry III. and his barons, appeared at Hereford five Suns at once, and a circle of a crystal colour, two foot in breadth, as it were compassing all England.

In the Reign of King Henry IV. Owen Glendour, being by the Welch made their King, got together a considerable force, and brake into Herefordshire, making spoil of the country, none opposing them but the Lord Edmund Mortimore, who was then at the castle of Wigmore: he assembling the country and joining battle was overthrown by them, taken prisoner, fettered and cast into a dungeon; from whence King Henry would not be persuaded to deliver him, rather wishing him his two sisters in heaven, they being all three competitors for the crown with him. If Glendour had known how to use this victory, he might have gone far in freeing the Welch from the English yoke, but having killed 1000 English, he thought it enough for that time, and retired.

Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, was born in this county, a valiant man, and a follower of Wickliff, for which he lost his life; this worthy lord embracing his doctrines, and being a zealous defender of them, exposed himself to the malice of his popish adversaries.

Arundel Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, called a synod of the clergy, who charged him with 246 articles of heresy; and made greivous complaints of him to King Henry V. who having patiently heard these blood-thirsty wolves, desired that because he was of noble blood, and his knight, they would reduce him with gentleness rather than rigor, promising that himself would discourse him of these matters; so he sent for the Lord Cobham, advising him as an obedient child to submit to the church, and acknowledge his fault; this christian knight answered, "Most worthy Prince, I am always ready and willing to obey you,

whom I know to be the minister of God bearing the sword for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the praise of those that do well; unto you next to my eternal God, I owe all obedience, and submit all I have to you, being ready to obey at all times whatever you shall in the Lord command me; but as for the Pope and his spirituality, I owe them neither suit nor service, knowing him by the Scriptures to be the great anti-christ, the son of perdition, the open enemy of God, and the abomination standing in the Holy place". When the King heard this stout answer, he left him to the Bishops, not daring to do otherwise, the princes of that age being miserably priest-ridden by the Pope and Clergy: then the Arch-Bishop persuaded him to recant what he had written, else threatening to condemn him as an heretic; the Lord Cobham answered, "do as you think best, for I am at a point that which I have written I will stand by to the death;" the Arch-Bishop came again, saying, "he was ready to absolve him if he humbly desire it;" "no," said the Lord Cobham, "I will not, for I never yet trespassed against you:" then kneeling down and lifting up his hands and eyes toward Heaven, he said, "I humbly confess my sins unto thee O eternal and everlasting God; in my frail youth I offended thee O Lord, by pride, covetousness, wrath, and uncleanness; many men have I hurt in mine anger, and have committed many other horrible sins; of which, good Lord, I ask thee forgiveness;" and then weeping, he stood up and said, "Lo good people, for breaking God's laws and his holy commandments, the prelates never yet cursed me; but for their own laws and traditions they handle me most cruelly, and therefore they and their laws shall according to God's promise be utterly destroyed." Then they proceeded to read the sentence of condemnation; to whom the Lord Cobham cheerfully said, "Though you judge my body, which is but a wretched thing, yet I am sure you can do no more to my soul than Satan could do to Job's; for he that created it, will, I doubt not, of his infinite mercy, save it; and as for my confession of faith, I will stand to it to the very death, by the grace of my eternal God;" then turning to the people, he spake thus aloud, "Good people, for God's sake beware of these men, or else they will beguile you, and lead you blindfold into Hell with themselves;" and falling on his knees he prayed thus for his enemies, "Lord God Eternal! I beseech thee of thine infinite mercy to forgive my persecutors, if it be thy blessed will." Then he was sent back to the Tower, from whence he escaped into Wales, and lay concealed four years, though a great sum was offered to bring him dead or alive. The Lord Powis, either for love of money, or hatred to religion,

sought divers ways to play the Judas, and at last apprehending him, sent him to London, where he was drawn through the Streets to the new gallows in St. Giles's fields, and first hanged, and then burnt on the gallows; such was the end of this godly martyr of Christ. The papists charged him with treason, but it hath ever been the practice of the devils instruments to accuse God's servants rather for sedition than religion, because Princes are more careful of their own honour than of God's: thus they dealt with our Saviour, and St. Paul, who were accused for stirring up tumults. But his death did not go unpunished, for the archbishop who condemned him was struck with a disease in his tongue, that he could neither swallow nor speak a word, and so was starved to death. Robert Devereux Earl of Essex, was born in this county in 1587, of whose life and death I have given an account in the History of the Unfortunate Court Favourites of England, &c. to which I refer the reader.

Hereford city is seated amongst pleasant meadows and cornfields; Lemster is famous for wool, which they call Lemster Oar; of which Mr. Drayton thus writes:

Where lives the man so dull, on Britain's farthest shore,
To whom did never sound the name of Lemster Oar?
That with the Silk-worm's web for smallness may compare,
Wherein the winder shews his workmanship so rare:
So doth his fleece excel all others in the land,
Being neatly bottom'd up by Nature's careful hand.

This county hath 11 hundreds, 8 market towns, 156 parishes, and elects 8 parliament men.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Is surrounded with Northampton, Bedford and Cambridgeshires, hardly 20 miles outright: it is good for corn, tillage and cattle. Huntingdon called in their public seal Huntersdone, the hill or down of hunters, gives name to the shire.

Godmanchester is a great town for tillage, no place having more ploughs, or stout husbandmen; they boast that formerly they received the kings of England in their progress this way, with 180 ploughs, in a rustical kind of pomp, as a gallant show. When King James I. came into England, the Bailiffs of this town presented him with 70

teams of horses, all traced to new ploughs, to shew their husbandry; the King demanding the reason, was told, "It was their ancient custom, when the King of England passed through their town so to present him, and that they held their lands by that tenure, being the King's tenants:" the King was pleased, bidding them use well their ploughs, and glad he was the landlord of so many good husbandmen in one town.

St. Ives is another town, so named from Ivo, a Persian bishop, who, it is said, about the year 600, travelled through England, preaching the gospel, and dying in this place left his name to it.

There are two little springs at Ayleweston, one fresh and the other brackish, the latter is good for scabs and leprosy, and the other for dim sights.

The Lake of Witismeer, and other meers near it in this shire, oft rise tempestuously in calm weather, and make water-quakes, the ground near it being rotten and hollow, which occasions vapours to break violently out of the earth; the natives of these meers are healthy and live long, but strangers are subject to sickness.

In 1580, at Fennystanton, one Agnes, wife to William Linsey, was delivered of a monster with a black face, the mouth and eyes like a lion, which was both male and female.

In 1584, at Spaldwick, Mr. Dorrington, gentleman pensioner to Queen Elizabeth, had a horse died suddenly, being opened, there was found in his heart a worm, which as it lay together in a caul, resembled a toad, but being taken from thence, the length of it divided into 80 grains, (which spread from the body like the branches of a tree) was 17 inches, having four issues in the grains, whence dropped a red water, the body was three inches and a half about, like a mackarel; this prodigious worm being killed and dried, was shewn as a rarity.

Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter and Earl of Huntingdon, who married the sister of King Edward IV. was so miserably poor in Flanders, that Philip de Comines saith, he saw him running bare legged after the Duke of Burgundy's coach, begging an alms for God's sake, whom the Duke at that time did not know, though they had married two sisters, but hearing who he was, allotted him a small pension to maintain him, and not long after he was found dead upon the shore at Dover, stripped naked, but how he came by his death was never known. It is observed that the ancient families of this county have been more outworn proportionably than in any other, few now remaining, whose surnames were eminent in the reign of King Henry

VIII. probably because this shire being generally abbey lands, after their dissolution, many new purchasers were planted therein, but,

Let's not repine that men and names too die,
Since stone-built cities dead and ruin'd lie.

This county hath four hundreds, six market towns, 69 parishes, and elects four parliament men.

KENT

In the Saxon Heptarchy, was a kingdom of itself; it hath the Thames, north; the Sea, east; Sussex, south; and Surry, west; from east to west, it is 53 miles, and from north to south, 26. The upper part (they say) is healthy, but not so wealthy; the middle part both healthy and wealthy; the lower part wealthy but not healthy, being very moist: it is full of meadows, corn-fields, apple trees, and cherry trees; the trees are planted directly one against another by square, very pleasantly. It hath plenty of fowl, fish, and grain; hath villages and towns thick and well peopled, safe roads and harbours for ships, with some veins of iron and marble: the air is foggy by vapours rising out of the waters.

This county hath two cities and bishops' sees, Canterbury and Rochester, it had formerly twenty-seven castles, with four of the king's houses. The Kentish people in Cæsar's time, were counted the civilest among the Britons, and had the privilege to lead the van in all battles for their valour; and those of Cornwall, Devonshire, and Wiltshire the rear: they esteem themselves the first Christians, since their king and people received the Christian faith before the other Saxons did, in 596; yea, long before that, it is recorded Lucius the first Christian British king in this island, built a church at Dover, endowing it with the toll of that haven. They glory that they were never conquered, but compounded with the Normans, so the poet sings;

Stout Kent, this praise to thee doth most of right belong,
Thou never wast enslav'd, impatient wert of wrong;
And when the Norman first with pride and horror sway'd,
Threw'st off the servile yoke upon the English laid;

And with a courage great, most bravely didst restore,
 That liberty so long enjoy'd by thee before:
 Not suffering foreign laws should thy free customs bind,
 And thereby shew'd'st thyself of noble Saxon kind;
 Of all the English shires, be thou surnam'd the free,
 And foremost ever plac'd when they shall marshall'd be.

Mr. Selden writes thus. "When William the Conqueror had got the day he came the lock and key that he might strong and po- and secure him-vasion of ene-when Stigand, Canterbury and Austins, who lords and gover-derstood, they commons, and danger of their series of their the pride of the the English were the name of vil- was not heard but now slavery said they, if we insolency of our offered to com- with them in freedom and



JOHN SELDEN.

by the people encouraged, concluded to meet at Swanscomb, two miles from Gravesend, where keeping private in the woods, they waited the coming of Duke William, with each a green bough in his hand, to hide their number, and if occasion were, to fall upon the Normans; next day the Duke came by Swanscomb, and was amazed to see a wood marching towards him, for being, as he thought, free from enemies, he was now beset on all sides with trees, and knew not but all the other vast woods about was of the same nature; neither had he leisure to avoid the danger, for the Kentish men inclosing his

to Dover Castle, of the kingdom, subdue Kent, a pulous province self from the in- mies; which, Arch-bishop of the Abbot of St. were the chief norsof Kent, un- assembled the- told them the country, the mi- neighbours, and French and that born free, and lain or bondman among them, only attends us, submit to the oldenemies, and mand and die defence of their country, where-

army, displayed their banners, and throwing down their branches at the sound of a trumpet, prepare their bows and arrows ready for fight, so that the Conqueror, who just before thought he had the whole kingdom at command, began now to despair of his own life, of which consternation two valiant prelates taking advantage, presented themselves to the Duke, and thus addressed him: "Most noble Duke, behold here the commons of Kent are come forth to meet you as their sovereign, in peace, upon condition that they may for ever enjoy their ancient liberties, freedoms, and estates, which they received from their fore-fathers; if these be denied, they are ready to give you battle, being resolved rather to die than to part with our ancient laws, or to live in slavery and bondage, the name and nature whereof as it hath been hitherto unknown to us, so we will rather every man lose his life than endure it." The Conqueror loth to hazard all upon so nice a point, their demands being reasonable, rather wisely than willingly granted their desires, and pledges on both sides are given, Kent yielding her Castle of Dover to her new King William: among other customs, they retained one called Gavel-kind, that is, give all kin, whereby lands are divided among the male children, or if there be no sons, among the daughters, by which every one is a freeholder, and hath some part of his own to live upon; by virtue of this also they are at full age, and enter upon their inheritance at fifteen years old, and it is lawful for them to make it over to any either by gift or sale, without the lord's consent, and the son, tho' his parents be hanged for felony, succeedeth in the lands, according to the old rhyme:

The father to the bough,
And the son to the plough.

King William to secure Kent, placed a constable in Dover Castle, and made him Lord of the Cinqueports, which are Hastings, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Sandwich, to which are joined Winchelsea and Rye, as principal ports, and other small towns as members, which being bound to serve in the wars by sea, enjoy great privileges; being free from the payment of subsidies, wardship of their children, and can be sued in no court, but within their own towns; and of the inhabitants therein, such as they call barons, at the coronation of kings and queens support the canopies over them, and have a table on the King's right hand, and the Lord Warden who is always of the nobility, hath the authority of Chancellor and Admiral within his jurisdiction in many cases, with other rights.

Canterbury city was famous in the time of the Romans: the Archbishop of Canterbury, was called Totius Angliæ Primas, Primate of all England; the Archbishop of York, only Primas Angliæ, Primate of England. He is also the first peer of the realm, and hath precedency of all dukes not of the royal blood or officers of state. Anselm to recompence his service in opposing the marriage of priests, and the King's investing of bishops, had this accession of honour given him by Pope Urban, that he and his successors should have place at the Pope's right foot in all general councils, the Pope adding these words, we include him in our orb as pope of another world. The cathedral is as St. Paul's in London was; between the body and the choir hangs a bell called Harry, which Henry VIIIth. brought out of France; there are four spires like St. Sepulchre's, London; on each side of the great west gate, are two other steeples, one called Dunstan and the others Arnold Steeples, in each are a pleasant ring of bells; there was in it a window, for which the Spanish Ambassador offered ten thousand pounds; being the history of Christ, from his nativity to his passion, but it was battered to pieces; in the choir Edward the Black Prince is buried in a monument of brass; underneath this cathedral is a congregation of French Protestants; the Dutch have also a church in the Bishop's palace; there are many other churches in the city and suburbs.

It is reported by the monks, that in 919, Canterbury being on fire, it raged so extremely that the greatest part of the city was burnt down, the flames extending to the Bishop's palace; so Melitus the archbishop commanded himself to be carried and set against the fiercest flames, which were in the place of the martyrdom of the four saints, where being placed, though grievously tormented with the gout, yet by his prayers the wind suddenly turned, and the fire was quenched.

In the reign of King Henry II. 1172, Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury (who was canonized by the Pope, though an arch-traitor to the king and country) being killed, was obscurely buried; but his body was after taken up and laid in a sumptuous shrine in the east end of the cathedral, by S. Langton, his successor; to this new martyr, people from all parts flocked in pilgrimage, loading his tomb with such large offerings that the church abounded with gold, silver, and precious stones; the chief was a rich jewel offered by King Lewis of France, who required (and he sure was told he had obtained, having bought it so dear) that no passenger between Dover and Whitesand should perish by shipwreck. There was such pressing to touch St. Thomas's body, and kneeling at his tomb, that the prints of their devotion, saith Lambert, appear at this day in the marble

stones, and every pillar resounded his miracles; yea, the church dedicated to Christ, was forced to give place to the name of St. Thomas; his blood was almost matched in virtue with our Saviour's, and his old shoe devoutly kissed by passengers: the shrine was built about a man's height, of stone, and upward of timber, within it was a chest of iron, with the bones of Thomas Becket, and the piece cut out of his skull; the timber was covered with plates of gold, embossed with gold and jewels of inestimable value, and filled two great chests, one of which eight men could scarce carry, and seized for the King's use, and his bones burnt to ashes, 1538. This epitaph was composed in memory of him:

*Tu per Thomæ Sanguinem quem pro te impendit,
Fac nos (Christe) scandere quo Thomas ascendit.*

(For blood of Thomas, which he for thee didst spend,
Grant us, (O Christ) that we may climb where Thomas did ascend.)

The Pope writ to the clergy to make a holiday for St. Thomas, as they expected pardon by his intercession to God for them. At Hal-baldown was an hospital erected by Archbishop Lanfrank, wherein was reserved an old shoe, said to be worn by Becket, set in copper and chrystal, and kissed by passengers.

In the reign of Edward III. there was a variance between the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Londoners were cursed by the first, because York carried his cross in that city, but the King ordered they should both carry the cross in each others province, yet in sign of subjection, the Archbishop of York should send the image of an archbishop, or some other jewel in gold, to the value of forty pounds, to Canterbury, and offer it at Becket's shrine. They report that lying in an old house at Oxford, and finding it wanting a spring, he stuck his staff into the dry ground, from whence issued water, and it is called to this day St. Thomas's well; and that a nightingale disturbed his devotions, he commanded that henceforth no bird of that kind should dare sing there. Many other ridiculous miracles were invented by Popish knaves, and believed by Popish ideots.

In 1386, William Courtney, Archbishop of Canterbury, summoned his tenants to answer an horrible trespass, as he called it, which was that they brought straw to litter his horses not in carts as formerly, but in bags; for which wicked offence, having confessed their fault, and asked forgiveness he enjoined them this penance, that going in proces-

sion bare foot and leg'd, each should carry on his shoulder a bag stuffed with straw hanging out ; whereupon these rhimes were made :

This bag full of straw I bear on my back,
Because my lord's horse his litter did lack ;
If you be not better to my lord grace's horse,
You are like to go barefoot before the cross.

In the reign of K. James I. Dr. G. Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, hunting in a park, shooting at a deer, his arrow by mitchance killed a man, upon which it was debated, whether he were not become irregular, and to be deprived of his archbishoprick, as having imbrued his hands (though unwillingly) in blood ; but Bishop Andrews of Winchester, and Sir Henry Martin Advocate, defended him by weighty reasons, that he was judged regular and in state to continue in his charge ; yet out of religious tenderness, he kept that day on which it happened as a solemn fast all his life after. In 1553, Nicholas Wotton, dean of Canterbury, being ambassador in France, dreamed that his nephew Thomas Wotton was inclined to be in such a project, as if not suddenly prevented, would be the loss of his life, and ruin of his family ; next night he dreamed the same again, and knowing it had no influence upon his waking thoughts, he seriously considered it, and resolved to use so prudent a remedy as might be no great inconvenience to either ; writing a letter to Queen Mary, to cause his nephew to be sent for out of Kent, and to him interrogate in such questions as might colour his commitment to prison, of which he would after give her majesty the reason ; this was done, and the Queen being married to King Philip, divers persons declared and raised forces against her, among whom Sir Thomas Wiat of Kent (with whom the family of the Wottons had an entire friendship) was the principal, who being defeated, suffered death with many others : and of this number Mr. Wotton probably had been, for he confessed he had some strong intimations of Wiat's design, and believed he should have been engaged, if his uncle had not so happily dreamed him into a prison.

Rochester City is a bishop's see, the cathedral is low and little, saith Dr. Fuller, like the revenues, yet hath it, though no magnificence, a venerable aspect of antiquity : there was a castle built by King William I. but now in ruins. In the wars of the barons when King John was viewing this castle held against him by the Earl of Arundel, he was espied by a good archer, who told the Earl " that if he would but say the word, he would quickly dispatch the cruel tyrant ; God forbid, vile

varlet," said the Earl, "that we should procure the death of the holy one of God." "Why," said the soldier, "he would not spare you, if he had you at the like advantage;" "no matter for that," said the Earl, "let God's will be done; he will dispose thereof, but let us not hurt the King."

Chatham joins to this city, now one of the royal docks for building ships, of which this story is recorded: the corps of a man was cast ashore in this town, and being taken up, was buried in this church yard; now there was an image or rood in the church, called our Lady of Chatham, who next night roused up the clerk, telling him a sinful person was buried near the place where she was worshipped, that offended her eyes with his ghastly grinning, and unless he was removed (to the grief of good people) she must remove thence, and could work no more miracles, so she desired him to go with her to take him up, and throw him into the river again; yet soon after the body floated again, and was taken up and buried in the church-yard; but from that time all miracles ceased, and the place where he was buried, continually sunk; this tale is told by ancient people by tradition from the Popish times of darkness and idolatry.

In the reign of King William Rufus, all the lands in Kent belonging to Earl Godwin were drowned, and are called Godwin's sands to this day: it is said, that Thira, a Dane, Godwin's wife, used to sell the beautiful virgins of England to Denmark, at a dear rate, to satisfy her own covetousness and the Dane's lusts, till by a thunderbolt from heaven she was slain:

In 1199, the town of Malling with the nunnery were burnt. In 1216, about Maidstone, a monster was found struck with lightning, which had a head like an ass, a belly like a man, and other parts differing from any other creature.

In the first of Queen Mary, the bravest ship in England called the Great Harry, of 1000 ton, was burnt by negligence at Woolwich. About this time the parson of Crondal near Canterbury, preaching on Shrove Sunday, went beside his text into an impertinent commendation of the Pope's articles then set forth, and in disgracing the Protestant religion, speaking thus to the people, "My masters and neighbours rejoice and be merry, for the prodigal son is come home; for I know your hearts well enough, that most of you are like myself; and I shall tell to you what happened to me this week; I have been with my Lord Cardinal Pool, and he hath made me as clean from my sins, as I was at the font stone, and hath also appointed me to publish unto you the bull of the Pope's pardon (reading it, and adding) he thanked God that he

ever lived to see that day, and believed by virtue of that bull, he was as clean from sin as the night he was born," which was no sooner uttered but he was struck dead, and never stirred more.

In 1575, a mighty whale was cast upon the Isle of Thanet in Kent, 20 ells long, and 13 foot broad from the belly to the backbone, and his tail as broad; the nether jaw was 12 foot, and as much between the eyes, his ribs and tongue 15 foot long, one of his eyes was more than a cart with six horses could draw.

In 1548, Mr. Arden of Kent, by procurement of his wife was murdered in his own house; his body was laid in a close hard by, but for two years after the ground where it lay bore no grass, but represented as it were a picture of his body; only in the space between his legs and arms grass grew, but where any part of his body touched, none at all; this miraculous accident was (it may be) both for the murder, and the curses of a widow woman, out of whose hands Arden bought this very close, to her undoing.

In 1585, at Mottingham near Eltham, in a field belonging to Sir Peter Hart, the ground began to sink so that three great elms were swallowed up, the tops falling downward into the hole, and no part could be discerned, the place being filled with water; the compass of the whole was about 80 yards, and a sounding line of 50 fathom could find no bottom; ten yards distant another piece of ground sunk near the highway, so nigh a dwelling house that the inhabitants were greatly terrified.

In 1602, April 20, thirteen persons were slain by the gunpowder mill at Redriff. Nicholas Wood, of Harison, yeoman, eat a whole sheep of 16s. price, raw at one meal; another time he eat 30 dozen of pigeons; at Sir William Sidly's he eat as much as 30 men; at the Lord Wooton's in Kent, he eat at one meal 84 rabbits, enough for 168 men, allowing each half a rabbit; he devoured 18 yards of black pudding, and having eat 60 pounds of cherries, said they were but wash meat; he eat a whole hog at once, and after it three pecks of damsons, and this after breakfast, for he had eat a pottle of milk, a pottle of pottage, with bread, butter, and cheese, before. "He eat, in my presence," saith Taylor the Water Poet, "six penny wheaten loaves, three sixpenny veal pies, one pound of sweet butter, one good dish of thornback, and a shiver of a peck loaf an inch thick, all in an hour; the house yielded no more, so he went away unsatisfied; yet John Dale was too hard for him at Lenham, who laid a wager he could fill Wood's belly with wholesome victuals for two shillings, and a gentleman added, that when he had eaten up Dale's two shillings, he should presently eat up a whole surloin of beef. Dale bought six pots of mighty ale,

and twelve new penny white loaves which he sopped therein, the powerful fume whereof conquered this conqueror, and laid him asleep, to the preservation of the wager; estate to provide though a landed about the year

In 1652, A. lived at Saint Isle of Thanet; estate, and married Lewkner's growing debauch himself into his estate; come night he fell in his wife, a vir-resolving to misfirst struck her on the jaw, patiently, say-but he raged the and she rising to struck her with knife on the the bone in sundashed her on

the cleaver, so she fell down bleeding, but recovering herself on her knees prayed God to forgive him as she did, and to pardon her own sins; while she was thus praying, her bloody husband cleft her head in the midst to the brains, so that she fell down dead; then he killed six dogs, 4 of which he threw by his wife, and chopped her twice into the leg after she was dead. For this horrid murder he was executed, dying desperately, refusing to discourse with ministers or gentlemen who came to him.

In 1655, Sir George Sonds of Kent had two sons grown up to that age wherein he might have expected most comfort from them; but the younger without apparent cause or provocation, either from his father or brother; most unnaturally and barbarously murdered his brother, concerning which Sir George in a narrative written by himself, used



TAYLOR
THE WATER POET

tion of the roast pected winning he spent all his for his belly, and man, died poor 1630.

Sprackling, esq. Lawrence in the he had a good ried Sir Rich-daughter, but ched, brought trouble and spent ing home one to a rage against tuous lady, and chief her, he wth his dagger which she bore ing little to him, more against her go away, he the chopping wrist, and cut der; he then the forehead with

these expressions ; " for my son's wickedness I must needs say Cain's was not greater, for he did it in the field, and first talked with his brother, and had some pretence of reason for it, because Abel and his offerings was more respected ; but thou," says he, " didst murder thy brother basely and inhumanly, not in the field, but in his bed ; thou didst not talk and dispute it with him but didst kill him sleeping, and couldst hear nothing but sad groans from him ; nor didst thou do it with a sword or manly weapon, but with a butcherly cleaver didst beat out his brains, and as if that had been too little, with a most cowardly steeletto thou didst stab him seven or eight times in and about the heart ; thou couldst have no such pretence as Cain had, for thou wast ever equally respected with thy brother ; even profane Esau came short of thee, he did but resolve to kill his brother, but when he met him he repented and embraced him ; but thou didst go through with thy work in the height of malice, and when thou hadst brought me to him, after thou hadst slain him, I saw not any relenting in thee, nor one tear drop from thine eye, for that foul fact. Judas did betray his innocent master ; but thou didst more, for thou didst kill thine innocent brother ; Judas did but deliver up his master to the judge for trial, but thou wast judge and executioner thyself : he might plead, that the Devil (after he had sop) entired into him, and that he was hired for 30 pieces of silver ; thou hadst no Devil, nor any hire but thy own malicious nature ; he did it in the dark night, as ashamed the light should see so foul a fact ; but thou, in the fair morning when the sun was risen, and shined clear : he gave his master time to pray before he took him, but thou didst kill thy brother sleeping, not suffering him to wake or speak, only to sigh and groan, and that most sadly, yet all moved thee not," &c. This young man was executed for this horrid fratricide, and so this worthy knight lost both his sons at one time.

Two watermen of Gravesend, one named Smith and the other Gurnay, being hired by a grasier to carry him to Tilbury Hope, intending to go to a fair in Essex to buy cattle, these villains perceiving he had money, one of them cut his throat, and the other taking his money, threw him overboard ; this murder was concealed divers years, but in 1656, these murderers drinking together fell out, and one accused the other of the murder, and he again accused him, upon which being apprehended they confessed the fact, and were hanged in chains at Gravesend.

In 1656, June 3, a whale came up to Deptford ; many boats made out after it with harping irons ; she spouted forth much water and blood, and roared like a lion, beating herself up and down till she came below Greenwich, and there turned up her belly and died ; she was 59 foot

long, and 15 foot high as she lay on her belly. September 3 following Oliver Cromwell died ; 3 days before was such a tempestuous wind, as overthrew houses, trees, &c. and did much mischief.

In 1660, August 24, at Dover was a great storm of hail, with thunder and lightning, some of the hailstones were four inches about ; the damage was £50. in glass windows.

In 1622, July 2, happened a whirl-wind in Mason Duffeld ; at Dover the wind took up divers sheaves of corn, a vast height into the air, carried them over the town two or three miles into the sea ; it threw some calves, and small cattle into a ditch ; and an hoy in the road was almost over-set by it. August 4, seven great spouts were seen in Dover road, about a quarter seas over, half a mile asunder, and ran about half an hour ; they were big at both ends, and slender in the middle, bigger than those in the Streights, and are unusual in these seas.

This county hath 5 laths, 67 hundreds, 26 market towns, and 408 parishes ; it elects 10 parliament men.

LANCASHIRE

Hath the Irish Sea, west ; York, east ; Cheshire, parted with the river Mersey, south ; and Westmoreland, north ; it is a County Palatine, and replenished with all necessaries, yielding corn, flax, grass, coals with fish, flesh, and fowl ; the Brigantes, the ancient inhabitants were subdued by the Emperor Claudius, who secured it by garrisons, as appears by inscriptions found in walls, and altars erected to their emperors. It is famous for the 4, 5, 6, and 7 Henries, all derived from John Duke of Lancaster. The shire town, Lancaster, is more pleasant in situation, than rich in inhabitants, the beauty lies in the church, castle, and bridge.

Manchester is a town of great antiquity, seated upon a stony hill, and beneath the town are quarries of stone : it excels the towns about it for beauty, resort, and cloathing ; as also for the market place, the church, and college. In this province King Arthur is reported to have routed the Saxons in a battle near Douglas, a little brook near Wiggan.

Near Forness fells, or hills, is a great standing water, called Winan-Mere, very deep, 10 miles over, and all paved with stones as it were in the bottom ; it breeds a fish called a Char, no where else to be found.

At Fernby the people use canal or turfs, both for fuel and candle, which when they dig they find under them a black water, on which swims a fat oily matter, wherein are little fishes, which the diggers

catch : on the top of Pendle Hill grows a plant called cloudsbury, as though it came out of the clouds ; this hill some years ago did the county much harm, an extraordinary water gushing out of it ; it is an infallible sign of rain, when the top of it is covered with a mist ; here are three great hills not far distant, seeming to be as high as the clouds, Ingelborough, Penigent, and this Pendle.

In the reign of Queen Mary the bishops put out a mandate, that comely roods or images should be set up in all churches ; so the churchwardens of Cockram agreed with a carver to make a rood for their church, at a certain price ; but the image having an ugly grim countenance, they disliked it, and refused to pay the workman, who summoned them before the Mayor of Lancaster, a favourer of the protestant religion : he asked them, why they did not pay the man ? they replied, " they did not like the grimness of his visage," saying, " they had a man formerly with a handsome face, and would have such another. " Well," said the Mayor, " though you like not the rood, the poor man's labour has been never the less, and it is pity he should lose by it ; but I'll tell you what you shall do, pay him the money you promised, and if it will not serve you for a God, you may put a pair of horns on the head, and make a devil of it."

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a Jesuit in Lancashire walking by the way lost his glove, one finding it followed him apace to restore it, but he fearing the worst, pursued with a guilty conscience, leaped over a hedge fell into a marl-pit and was drowned.

In 1613, at Standitch a maiden child was born, having four legs, four arms, and two bellies joined to one back, one head with two faces, one before and the other behind, like the picture of Janus.

In 1662, July 4, at Lifham near Preston, a fish was cast upon the shore about 4 yards long, and as big as a horse, the fore feet were as long as a man's arm, the hinder shorter, but broader like the fins of a fish, it roared like a bear, lived some time, and multitudes came to view it. About the same time, many persons often saw a serpent come out of a wood, in length about 6 yards, and bigger than a cart axle-tree ; it sometimes lay near a well at Dunkin Hall, where it made an impression on the ground, as if an ox, or some other large beast had lain there.

July 30, at Ormskirk, happened a storm of hail that spoiled the corn, broke the windows, and cut the lead in pieces ; some hailstones were 8 inches about, others like pullets eggs ; all the French wheat was spoiled and the wheat and barley in the three adjacent parishes much damaged.

This county hath 6 hundreds, 26 market towns, and 61 churches ; it elects 14 parliament men.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Hath Lincoln and Rutland, east; Derby and Nottingham, north; Warwick, west; and Northampton south. It is a champion country, and abounds with corn, cattle and coals, &c. The chief town, Leicester, stands almost in the heart of the county, which by Etheldred the Mercian King, was made an episcopal see, but being removed, the beauty of the town decayed; yet the Lady Etheldred re-edified and encompassed it with a wall, whereby the trade much increased. But in the reign of King Henry II. the Earl of Leicester rebelling, the King besieged, took and plundered it, throwing down the walls, which seemed hard to be done, some parcels remaining like rocks, by reason of the excellent mortar. He then commanded it to be burnt, the castle to be razed, and a heavy imposition laid upon the citizens, who with great sums bought their own banishment.

King Henry V. called a Parliament at Leicester, wherein eleven hundred prisoners were suppressed (because they spoke ill of his conquests in France) and their possessions were given to the King.

In 1485, King Richard called Crookback set out of this city to meet the Earl of Richmond (after King Henry VII.) in Bosworth Field, to try his fortune for the crown of England: the van of his army was led by the Duke of Norfolk, being twelve hundred bowmen flanked with two hundred curiassers under the Earl of Surry: the main battle King Richard led himself, being one thousand billmen, empaled with two thousand pikes, the King expected the Lord Stanly's two thousand horse to assist him, of whose fidelity having some doubt, he took his son the Lord Strange as a pledge of his loyalty with him. Stanly not appearing, King Richard sent to him to come presently into his presence, or else he swore by Christ's passion, he would strike off his son's head before he dined; the Lord Stanly answered, "That if he did so, he had more sons alive, and he might do his pleasure; but to come to him he was not determined." Upon which Richard commanded the Lord Strange to be beheaded; but the armies being in sight of each other, his lords persuaded him it was now time to fight, and not to do execution; and so the Lord Strange escaped. The Earl of Richmond sent likewise to the Lord Stanly, but he sent word, he must expect no aid from him till the battles were joined, advising him to give the onset; which answer staggered the Earl, because his number was but one half of the King's; yet for a shew he made the front of his army thin and broad, which the Earl of Oxford led, Richmond himself

leading the battle; the fight began, and their arrows being spent, they came to handy strokes; and just then came in the Lord Stanly to the Earl's assistance. King Richard was informed that the Earl of Richmond with a small number was not far off, who being of great courage, whereof he was now to give the last proof, made toward him with such fury that he slew Sir William Brandon, who bore the Earl's standard; unhorst Sir John Cheyney, a stout man at arms; then assaulted the Earl of Richmond, who for all the King's fury held him off at lances point till Sir William Stanly came in with three thousand fresh men, and then opprest with multitude, King Richard was slain; when the battle was almost lost, a swift horse was brought him to have saved himself by flight; but Richard undauntedly refused it, saying, "He would that day make an end of all battles, or else lose his life." In this battle the Earl of Northumberland, who led King Richard's rear never struck a stroke, nor many others, who followed him more for fear than love; so he who had deceived many, was deceived by many, which was foreseen by some, who caused this rhyme to be set upon the Duke of Norfolk's tent, the night before the fight.

Jack of Norfolk be not too bold,
For Dickon thy master is bought and sold.

Yet this Duke continued firm to King Richard, and lost his life in his quarrel. On King Richard's side about a thousand were slain. Sir William Catesby, one of his chief counsellors, was two days after beheaded at Leicester. This battle was fought August 20th 1485, continuing above two hours. The Earl knighted several in the field, and kneeling down returned thanks to Almighty God for this victory; commanding all the wounded men to be cured, whereat the people clapt their hands; and cried, King Henry! King Henry! of which Sir William Stanly taking advantage he took the crown off King Richard, who was found in the field, and set it on the Earl's head, as though he had been elected King by the voice of the people.

The body of King Richard was stript, not a rag being left to cover his nakedness, and being taken up, was trussed behind a pursuivant at arms, his head and arms hanging on one side of the horse, and his legs on the other; thus all besmeared with blood and dirt, he was brought to the Grey Friars Church in Leicester, and lay a miserable spectacle, till with small funeral pomp he was there buried. But King Henry VII. caused a tomb to be set over him, with his picture in alabaster, which at the suppression of that monastery was defaced, and his grave overgrown with nettles is not to be found; only the stone chest, wherein

X his corpse lay, is made a drinking trough for horses at a common inn in Leicester, and only retaineth the memory of this monarch's greatness; his body was, it is said, carried out of the city and laid under Bow bridge near the town; upon this bridge stood a stone of some height, against which, King Richard, as he passed toward Bosworth, by chance struck his spur, which a witch or wise woman observing, said, that "where his spur struck, his head should be broken," as they say it was, when he was brought back dead. He lived 37 years and reigned two years, two months. It is memorable, that Sir William Stanly, who saved King Henry's life, and set the crown on his head, was 11 years after, on pretence of dangerous words, beheaded at Tower Hill by his order. Mr. Wanly writes, that in St. Martin's Church in Leicester, there is a remarkable epitaph, "here lies the body of John Heyrick of this parish, who died 1589, aged 96 years, who lived with his wife Mary in one house 62 years, and had issue by her 5 sons and 7 daughters; and in all that time never buried man, woman, nor child, though they were sometimes 20 in household. The said Mary lived 97 years, and died 1611. She did see, before her departure, of her children, and children's children, and their children, to the number of 142. Mathew Paris relates that a maid in Leicestershire, being exactly watched, was found in seven years neither to eat nor drink, only on Sundays she received the sacrament; and yet was fat in good liking, which if true, we may well believe, that in the resurrection our life may be maintained without meat and drink.

Near Lutterworth a miller had murdered one in his mill, and privately buried him hard by. This miller removed into another county, and there lived a long time; till at last for the manifestation of God's justice, he came hither to visit some friends: while he was there, the miller who now had the mill, had occasion to dig deep in that very place where he found the carcase of a man: this being known, they remembered a neighbour who 20 years before was suddenly missed, and since not heard of; and thinking who was then miller, behold he was then in town not having been there many years before. This man was suspected, examined, confessed the fact, and was executed for it.

In 1560, September 3, near Worthington a whirl-wind tore up trees by the roots, and threw down a house in the street; the chapel was much shaken, and the chancel in danger of falling; it passed on with great noise to Worthington Hall, overturned five barns, a gate house and a stack of chimnies; it rent a house, where a woman and three children were miraculously preserved; by which it brought a great log of wood, no body knew from whence: it carried away a hive of bees, and

a load of thorns, which could not be heard of, and overturned 20 load of wood by the roots. This whirlwind ran about 3 miles in length, and 20 yards in breadth; some said there were flames of fire seen in it.

January 24 following, was an earthquake in Leicestershire, which came with a noise in the air, at a distance; it shook the houses, and men could hardly stand, and continued a quarter of an hour.

Near Lutterworth, is a spring so cold, that it turns straw into stone. John Wickliff was parson of Lutterworth, a man of singular wit, and much conversant in the scripture: his bones were taken up, and burnt by the Papists. Sir Richard Belknap, Lord Chief Justice to King Richard II. was of this county, who having a design to destroy certain lords, sent for the judges to Nottingham, where the King's many questions were resolved into this, "whether he might by his regal power revoke an act of parliament?" To this all the judges, Sir William Shipwith excepted, answered affirmatively, and subscribed it, though Belknap did it unwillingly, foreseeing the danger, and putting to his seal, said, "there wants nothing but a hurdle, an horse, and an halter, to carry me to the death I deserve; for if I had not done it, I should have died for it, and because I have done it, I deserve death for betraying the lords." Yet it had been more for his credit, to have adventured martyrdom in defence of the laws, than to hazard the death of a malefactor in breach thereof; but judges are men, and most men decline that danger they think nearest to them: he and the other judges were condemned for high treason in the next wonder-working parliament, and hardly had escaped, if the queen had not interceded for them.

This county hath 6 hundreds, 200 parishes, and 12 market towns.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Hath York, north; the German Ocean east; Cambridge, Northampton, and Leicester, west. It abounds with fish, fowl, corn, cattle, and flax. Lincoln is well inhabited; it stands on one side of a hill, where the River Witham bends eastward; and divided into three small channels, watereth the lower part of the City. In the highest part is the cathedral, a stately structure of rare workmanship, especially the west-end; it is very ancient, and had fifty parish churches in it, whereof at this day only fifteen remain, beside the minster.

In 1180, an earthquake overthrew many buildings, and the cathedral was rent in pieces. About this time the bishoprick of Lincoln was so long void, that a certain hermit of Tame prophesied there should be no more bishops of Lincoln; but he proved an untrue prophet, for after sixteen years vacancy, Jeffery the King's bastard son was preferred to it; of whom it is said, that he was more skilful in fleecing, than feeding his flock. This gallant Bishop would usually protest by the honor of his father; but the King's chaplain told him, "Pray, Sir, remember the honesty of your mother, as well as the royalty of your father." He put on his episcopal seal, "The seal of Jeffery Son of the King of England." A poor husbandman coming to Richard Gostead, Bishop of Lincoln, challenged kindred of him, desiring to be preferred to an office he was unfit for: cousin, said the Bishop, "If your cart be broken I will give you a new one, or seed to sow your land; but a husbandman I found you, and a husbandman I leave you."

In 1537, King Henry VIII. by advice of the Lord Cromwell, sent abroad injunctions, whereby the people were permitted to have the bible, Lord's prayer, creed, ten commandments, and all the articles of the Christian faith in English to be taught by all persons to their parishoners; which so enraged the papists, that in Lincolnshire twenty thousand assembled, against whom the King went in person, who by persuasion winning their chief leaders, brought the rest upon pardon to submit: but when he had done the work of mercy, he sent the Duke of Suffolk, Sir John Russel, and others, to do the work of justice, who caused Nicholas Melton, and a monk who called himself Captain Cobler, with thirteen ring-leaders of the sedition to be executed.

In 1654, a monstrous fish was driven on the shore at Grimesby, nineteen yards in length, his tail fifteen feet broad, and six yards between his eyes, fifteen men stood upright in his mouth to get the oil.

Job Hartop was born at Bourn and went in 1568 with Sir John Hawkins, to make discoveries in New Spain; he was a gunner in Queen Elizabeth's ship, called the Jesus of Lubick; long and dangerous was the voyage, eight of his men being killed at Cape Verd, and the general wounded with poisoned arrows, but a negro drew out the poison with a clove of garlic. He first writ of that strange tree which may be termed the tree of food, affording a liquor which is both meat and drink; the tree of rayment, yielding needles wherewith, and thread whereof mantles are made; the tree of harbour, tiles to cover houses, being made out of the solid parts thereof. Job was his name, and patience was with him; for he, with others, was by his General

left on land for want of provisions, and after many miseries came to Mexico: he continued a prisoner twenty-three years: that is, two at Mexico, one in the Constraction House in Sevil, another in the inquisition in Triana, twelve a gally-slave, four with the cross of St. Andrew at his back in the everlasting prison, and three a drudge to Hernando de Soria; so high did the inventory of his sufferings amount. So much of his patience, now see the end the Lord made with him; whilst enslaved to Hernando, he was sent to sea in a Flemish vessel, which was taken by an English ship, and so he safely landed at Plymouth, December 2d, 1590, and died soon after.

Sir William Mounson, of an ancient family in this shire, was from his youth in the sea service, wherein he attained to great perfection: Queen Elizabeth having cleared Ireland of the Spanish forces, to prevent a relapse, altered the scene of war from Ireland to Spain; from defending to invade, and Sir Richard Levison being Admiral, and Mounson Vice Admiral, they in 1602, went to Portugal, where without drawing a sword they killed many trading on the coasts, no ships daring to go in or out of their harbours; there they had intelligence of a rich corraet bound to Sisimbria, of 1600 ton, richly laden from the East Indies, and resolved to assault it, though it seemed in an invincible posture, and was a giant to our pigmy ships, and had in her three hundred Spaniards. The Marquis de Sancta Cruze lay hard by with thirteen ships, and all were secured by a well fortified castle: but nothing is impossible to the English valour, with God's blessing. After an hot dispute for some hours, with the invincible arguments of fire and sword, the Carract was conquered, the wealth taken therein, amounting to a million of crowns. But though the goods might be valued, the good got thereby was inestimable; for ever after the Spaniards beheld the English with admiring eyes, and quitted the thoughts of invasion. This worthy knight died in the reign of James I.

In 1614, great inundations happened in Lincolnshire, and the parts adjacent, the sea entering twelve miles into the land. In 1606 at Brampton, near Gainsborough, an ash tree shook both in body and boughs, and there proceeded from thence sighs and groans, like those of a man troubled in his sleep, as if he felt some sensible torments. Many climbed to the top, where they heard the groans more plainly than below. One being at top spoke to the tree, but presently came down astonished, and groveling on the earth speechless three hours, and then reviving said, Brampton, Brampton, thou art much bound to pray. The author of this news was Mr. Vaughan, a minister there present, who heard and saw these passages, and told Mr. Hildersham

of them. The Earl of Lincoln caused one of the arms of the ash to be lopped off, and a hole to be bored into the body, and then was the sound or hollow voice heard more audible than before, but in a kind of speech they could not understand.

In 1666, was a storm of thunder in Lincolnshire, with hailstones bigger than pidgeon's eggs, and some like pullet's eggs, and there followed a terrible tempest, attended with an unusual noise; at Welborn it overthrew most of the houses to the ground, tore up trees by the roots, scattering abroad much corn and hay, but by providence, only one boy was killed. At Willingore the next town, it overthrew some houses, killing two children with the fall. In the church of the next town it dashed the spire-steeple to pieces, and so rent the stone and timber work, that only the body of the steeple was left standing. It threw down many houses, trees, and out-houses in this town, and in two others at a distance; it had the appearance of fire, and moved in a circle, though its general course was direct. It passed through Nottinghamshire, some hail stones were nine inches about, it extended above sixty yards in breadth. In the Forest of Sherwood it overthrew one thousand trees, and brake one short off in the body three feet thick. It overthrew wind-mills, boats in the river, and in one town of fifty houses it left but seven standing. That evening over Derby town appeared a fiery sword hanging in the air; strange fires were seen hanging over Nottingham, so that some coming home from a country market thought the town to be on fire in three places.

April 26, 1661, at Spalding, Bourne, &c. it rained wheat, some grains were thin and hollow, others firm, and would grind into flower, pecks of it were taken out of church leads, and other houses leaded, and several who were eye witnesses brought up quantities to London.

There is a proverb in this country, "As mad as the baiting bull of Stamford;" the original was this, Earl Warren Lord of this town in the time of King John, standing upon the castle walls of Stamford, saw two bulls fighting for a cow in the meadow, till all the butcher's dogs pursued one of the bulls (being mad with noise and multitude) quite through the town. This so pleased the Earl, that he gave all those fields called the Castle-Meadows, where the bull duel began, for a common to the butchers of the town, after the first grass was mown, upon condition they find a mad bull the day six weeks before Christmas, for continuing the sports yearly. Some think the men must be as mad as the bull to take delight in such dangerous pastime, since by God's providence, more than man's care, no more mischief is done.

Sir William Hussee was born in this county, he was Lord Chief Justice to King Edward IV. and lived till King Henry VII. in whose first parliament many members were returned, who being King Henry's friends, were attainted by Richard III. and disabled to sit in parliament, and it being incongruous they should make laws for others, who were themselves outlawed, King Henry remitted the case to the judges; who agreed with Sir William Hussee upon this safe opinion, mixed with law and convenience: "That the knights and burgesses attainted by course of law, should forbear to come into the house till a law were passed for reversing their attainders." It was moved incidently, what should be done for the King himself, who likewise was attainted; the rest agreed with Sir William Hussee, "That the crown takes away all defects and stops in blood, and that by the assumption thereof, the fountain was cleared from all attainders and corruptions." He died in the 10th of Henry VII.

* Peregrine Berty, Lord Willoughby, of this county, was a valiant commander both in France and the Netherlands, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; he could not brook the flatteries of the court, saying, "He was none of those little animals who could creep on the ground." The camp was his element, being a great soldier with suitable magnanimity. When one sent him an insulting challenge whilst he lay sick of the gout, he returned answer; "That though he was lame of his hands and feet, yet he would meet him with a piece of rapier in his teeth." He once in a battle took a Spanish gennet managed for the war, intended for a present to the King of Spain, and was desired by a trumpeter from the general to restore it, offering 1000 pounds for him, or a hundred a year during his life; the lord replied, "That had it been any commander, he freely would have sent him back, but being but a horse, he loved him as well as the King of Spain himself, and would keep him." This lord lies buried under a stately monument at Eresby.

This county hath 30 hundreds, 35 market towns, 630 parishes, and elects 12 parliament men.

MIDDLESEX

Air is healthful, especially about Highgate, divers long visited with sickness, not curable by physic, have recovered by that salutary air. The soil is fruitful, hath on all sides sumptuous houses and pretty towns; Harrow Hill is the highest in this county, under which lies

fruitful fields, especially about Heston, which yields such fine flour that the King's merly made Queen Elizabeth ney from these took her wheat own use. Hamp-royal palace, Cardinal Wolnifiscent in his that we may ad-keeping and his ing. He bestow-Henry VIIIth, to be a honour, and when other found their fatal Holdenby, Oat-Theobalds, and ton Court con-former state, of thus writes :



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period, such as
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Nonsuch Hamp-
tun continued in its
which a person

CARD: WOLSEY.

I envy not it's happy lot,
But rather thereat wonder;
'There's such a rout our land throughout,
Of palaces by plunder.

But it it is now rebuilt with extraordinary splendor, by King William and Queen Mary. Osterly House built in a park of Sir Thomas Gresham, who here magnificently entertained Queen Elizabeth, who found fault with the court as too great, saying, "it would appear more handsome if divided by a wall in the middle." Sir Thomas in the night sends for workmen from London, who so speedily and silently apply their business, that the next morning discovered that court double which the night had left single; it is questionable whether the Queen was more pleased or surprized with the sudden performance thereof; the courtiers said it was no wonder, he could so soon change a building, who could build a Change: others reflecting on some differences in his family, affirmed, "that any house is easier divided than

united." Edward VI. son of King Henry VIII. and Queen Jane, was born at Hampton court, 1537. He succeeded his Father, and was eminent in his generation, saith Dr. Fuller, seeing the Kings of England fall under a fivefold division: 1. Visibly vicious, as King Edward II. 1. rather free from vice than fraught with virtue, as King Henry the Third. 3. Those in whom vices and virtues were so equally matched, as it was hard to decide which got the mastery, as King Henry VIII. 4. Whose good qualities beat their bad ones quite out of competition, as King Edward I. 5. Whose virtues were so resplendent, that no faults (human frailties excepted) appeared in them, as is in King Edward VI. He died July 5, 1553; and pity it is that he who deserved the best, should have no monument erected to his memory.

Smithfield in London being Bonner's shambles, and the bonfire general of England, no wonder if some sparks flew into the neighbourhood, as Barnet, Islington, Stratford, and Bow, where 20 persons were martyred. Mr. John Denby, burnt at Uxbridge, began to sing a psalm at the stake but Dr. Stoy caused a faggot to be hurled in his face, which so hurt him that he bled; yet we may believe this martyr's song made melody in the ears of the God of Heaven.

The last battle in England between Lancaster and York, was fought at Barnet, 1472, by King Edward IV. who hearing the Earl of Warwick, who was for King Henry the VI. was encamped on a heath near Barnet, came in the evening from London thither. He would not suffer a man to stay in the town, but lodged with his army near the enemy (by reason of a thick dark mist, raised, some say, by Friar Bongey the conjurer) with as much silence as possible, to keep them from knowing of their approach; great artillery they had both, but Warwick more than King Edward, who in the night fired at the King's army, but did little hurt, because they shot over them; on Easter-day in the morning both armies were ordered for battle; the right wing of horse was led by the Marquiss Montacute, and the Earl of Oxford; the left of horse by the Duke of Exeter, and the main battle of bills and bows by the Duke of Somerset; King Edward's van was commanded by the Duke of Gloucester, the main battle (in which King Henry was prisoner) by King Edward himself, and the Lord Hastings brought up the rear, the fight held six hours without advantage on either side, only Warwick's van seemed by the courage of the Earl of Oxford's to overmatch King Edward, and some flying towards London, carried news that the Earl of Warwick had won the field, and so perhaps he had, but for a strange misfortune, for the Earl of Oxford's men, having a star with streamers on their liveries, as King Edward's had the sun; the Earl of Warwick's

men, by reason of the mist, not distinguishing it, shot at the Earl of Oxford's men; whereupon the Earl of Oxford cried out, treason, treason, and fled with 800 men. After a great slaughter on both sides, King Edward having the greater number, caused a recruit of fresh soldiers to come on reserve to that purpose, which the Earl of Warwick observing, being of invincible courage, rushing into the midst of his enemies, he adventured so far, that he was struck down and slain; some write, that seeing the desperate condition of his army, he leapt on his horse to fly, and coming to a wood where was no passage, one of King Edward's men killed and stript him to the skin; Montacute thinking to relieve his brother, lost his life, and left the victory to King Edward; there were slain on both sides 10000; and hereby King Edward again got the kingdom, and King Henry's friends not being after able to raise any considerable power, he was sent to the Tower, and there murdered by the Duke of Gloucester.

I shall not speak any thing of London, having published a book of the same price with this, "Of Historical Remarks and Observations of the antient and present state of London, and Westminster, wherein the most considerable particulars relating thereto, for several hundred years past, are succinctly declared."

Middlesex hath 7 hundreds, 4 market towns, and 73 parishes, besides those in London and Westminster, and elects 8 parliament men.

NORFOLK.

All England, saith Dr. Fuller, may be carved out of this county represented not only in the kind, but the degree; for here are pens and heaths, light and deep sand, and clay ground, meadows and pastures, arable and woods, yea, woodless grounds, so that herein is sufficiency of profit and pleasure. It abounds in corn, worsteds, stuffs, wool, coals, and rabbits, who are an army of natural pioneers, whence men learned the art of undermining; they thrive best in barren ground, and grow fattest in the hardest frosts, their flesh is fine and wholesome; if the Scottish men tax our language as improper, and smile at our wing of a rabbit, let us laugh at their shoulder of a capon. Store of herrings are caught near Yarmouth, and vast profit raised out of them. A gentleman in Norfolk made above 10000 pounds of a piece of ground not 40 yards square, and yet there was neither mineral nor metal in it, but a sort of fine clay for making choice earthen ware, which some that knew it seeing dug up, discovered the value, and sending it into Holland,

received so much money for the same. It is recorded that one chief occasion of the Danes invading this kingdom, was the following accident : about 867, one Lothbrook, of the royal family of Denmark being upon that shore, his hawk in pursuing her game fell into the sea, he to recover her, got into a cock-boat alone, and by tempest was driven with his hawk to the coast of Norfolk near Rodham ; were being seized for a spy, he was sent to Edmund King of the East Angles ; having declared his birth and misfortune, the King for his skill in hawking, and his other good parts preferred him ; but Berick the King's falconer envying him ; as they were hunting murdered and hid him in a bush : Lothbrook was missed, but could not be found ; till it pleased God, his dog which would not forsake his dead master's corps, came often fawning to the King and then went back to the wood ; which the King observing, followed the hound, who brought him to the place where Lothbrook lay ; and Berick being found guilty of the murder, was sentenced to be put into Lothbrook's boat without tackle or sail, as he arrived here ; but behold the event, the boat returned to the same place in Denmark, whence it had been driven, as if for Berick to be punished for this murder ; here the boat being known, Berick was taken, who to free himself from that bloody fact added treason to murder, affirming that King Edward put Lothbrook to death in Norfolk ; in revenge whereof Ingvar and Hubba, the two sons of Lothbrook, being made generals of a Danish army arrived in England, and burnt up the country, sparing neither sex nor age, and breaking into Norfolk, sent this message to King Edmund ; " Ingvar the most victorious prince, dreadful both by sea and land, having brought divers countries under his subjection, is now arrived in these parts, where he means to winter, and requireth thee Edmund to be subject, and a vassal to him, to yield up thy hidden treasures, and all other the riches of thine ancestors, and to reign under him ; which if thou refusest to do, he adjudges thee unworthy both of life and kingdom ;" Edmund hearing this proud pagan's message, and advising with his council, " go, " said he, " and tell thy lord, that Edmund the Christian King for the love of a temporal life will not submit himself to a Pagan Duke, unless he resolve to become a Christian ; whereupon the furious Danes pursued the King to Thetford, who raising an army gave them battle ; but being overpowered retired to Framingham Castle, and pitying the slaughter of his people, submitted to the Danes ; but because he would not renounce the Christian religion, these bloody Heathens beat him with sticks, and whipt him with rods, who still fervently calling upon the name of Jesus, they were so enraged, that binding him to a stake, they with arrows shot

him to death, and cutting off his head scornfully threw it into a hedge; his body was buried at St. Edmundsbury, whence that town has its name.

At Walsingham was a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and renowned for pilgrimages to our Lady of Walsingham, those who did not visit, and offerings, being
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by Erasmus, an
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place; there is a
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ERASMUS.

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a town that lives
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her son; she hath
herself on his
neither doth she
the building is
small light there
tapers or wax
a pleasant smell;

and when you come in you would say it were an heavenly habitation indeed, it shining all over with precious stones, gold, and silver." This chapel with all the trinkets fell in the fall of the monasteries.

At St. Bennet in the Holm, was a great abbey built by Canutus the Dane, and so fortified by the monks with walls and bulwarks, that it seemed rather a castle than a cloyster, so that William the Conqueror could not win it by assault, till a monk betrayed it into his hands upon condition he himself should be made abbot; which was done, and then the King hanged him up, justly punishing him for his treachery.

King Stephen had only one son named Eustace, a Prince of much valour, cut off at eighteen years of age, some say by drowning, others by this strange accident, "That being at the abbey of Bury, and

denied some money, he in a rage went and set the corn fields belonging to it on fire; after sitting down to dinner, at the first morsel of bread he put into his mouth he fell into a fit of madness, and died: thus princes as they make examples, are sometimes made examples to others.

In the 11th of King Henry II. was an earthquake in Norfolk, and other countries, that overthrew many who stood on their feet, and made the bells toll in the steeples. In his 18th year the cathedral of Norwich, with the houses were burnt.

In the reign of King Richard I. a Jew being turned Christian at Lynn, he was by his own nation assaulted in the street, who flying to the church was followed thither, and the church assaulted; the people in defence of this new Christian, fell upon the Jews, of whom they slew a great number, and pillaged their houses; by this example, in other places multitudes were massacred; some being blocked up in a castle at York, cut the throats of their wives and children, and cast them over the wall, and then burnt the castle and themselves; neither could this sedition be stayed, till the King sent the Bishop of Ely to punish the offenders.

In 1417, a great part of Norwich was burnt, and all the houses of the friars preachers, with two of the friars.

In the second year of Edward VI. was a rebellion in Norfolk, one Ket a tanner was the leader, who encouraged them to pull down inclosures, and in a short time they grew to a body of twenty thousand; the sheriff commanding them in the King's name to depart, else he would proclaim them traitors, he had been slain had not his horse been too swift for them. They got arms and artillery, and fortified Moushold Hill, near St Leonard's Hill by Norwich, where they carried a face of justice and religion. One Conyers an idle fellow was chaplain, who morning and evening read prayers to them. They ordained a seat of judgement in an old tree, whose canopy was the heavens: in this sat the tanner as chancellor and chief judge, giving out warrants in the King's name, and committed many persons of quality to prison; he was assisted by two chosen out of every hundred among them, from whom commissions were sent to bring in powder, shot, victuals, and all necessaries, and such as exceeded their commission were imprisoned, so that this tree was called, The Oak of Reformation; whence sermons were delivered to the people, and one by Dr. Parker, which had like to have cost him his life; and growing strong, they presented several complaints to the King, requiring he would send an herald to give them satisfaction. The King though he took it as an indignity to have such fellows capi-

tulate with him, yet returned answer, "That in October following he would call a Parliament, wherein their complaints should be heard, and all their grievances redressed, requiring them in the mean time to lay down their arms and return home, granting them a general pardon." This satisfied not the seditious, but they assaulted Norwich and took it, making the mayor attend them as their servant, and returned to Moushold Hill: then the Marquis of Nottingham, the Lord Sheffield, with other lords, 1530 horse, and a band of Italians were sent, whom the seditious stoutly opposed, and much mischief was done on both sides; the Lord Sheffield falling with his horse into a ditch, was taken prisoner, and as he pulled off his helmet to make himself known, was struck dead by a butcher. The Marquis not prevailing, the Earl of Warwick was sent with 6000 foot, and 1500 horse, and many persons of quality; when the Earl approached the camp of the rebels, he sent an herald, offering the King's pardon, if they would disband; which they were so far from accepting, that a lewd boy turned up his naked breech to the herald, and bid him kiss it; many skirmishes passed between the Earl and them, with loss on both sides; at last they came to a battle: they placed in the front all the gentlemen they had taken prisoners, designing they should be first slain, of whom yet few were hurt, but of the rebels above 2000 were killed; and now once again the Earl of Warwick offered them pardon, but for all their losses they continued obstinate: at last the Earl demanded if they would entertain their pardon if he brought it in person; this so moved them, that they answered, "They knew him to be so honorable, that from himself they would embrace it;" so he went and caused their pardon to be read, and confirmed so effectually; that all cast away their arms, and with one voice cried, "God save King Edward," next day Ket the arch-rebel was taken, hanged in chains upon Norwich Castle, William Ket the younger, upon the high steeple of Winmondham, and nine other principal rebels upon the Oak of Reformation. This ended the sedition in Norfolk; the day of the defeat of the rebels being long observed as a festival by the citizens of Norwich, with no less joy than the Jews when they had escaped the sword of wicked Haman.

In the 20th year of Queen Elizabeth, Matthew Haman of Hitherset, three miles from Norwich, Plowright, for denying Christ to be our Saviour, and other heresies, was by the bishop of Norwich condemned in the consistory, and delivered to the sheriffs to be executed; but because he had spoke seditious words against the Queen, his ears were cut off, and seven days after he was burnt in the castle-ditch at Norwich. In her 23d year was a tempest of thunder, lightning, whirlwind, and

rain in Norfolk, with hailstones like rowels of spurs, three inches about; it beat the corn to the ground, tore up trees, and at Hemming the west door of the church of 300 lb. weight, was blown over the font, within a yard of the chancel; the top of the church was rept up, and the lead blown away; five sheets of lead wrapt together were blown into a field without the church-yard. In her 25th year, J. Lewis for denying the Godhead of Christ, and other detestable opinibns was burnt at Norwich.

At Castor near Yarmouth, a fish was by east winds driven ashore; in length from the neck to the tail seventeen yards; the head was great, the chap of jaw three yards and a quarter in length, the teeth three quarters of a yard in a compass; it had two great eyes, with two great holes over them to spout water; the tail 14 feet broad; she was four yards and an half in thickness from the back to the belly.

In 1656, July 20th, being Lord's day, was a tempest at Norwich, with thunder and lightning, the flashes were violent, and the thunder dreadful; an hour after, a black cloud like the smoak of a furnace, cast forth flames of fire, then followed a white cloud, labouring as it were to overtake the other, but the black one covering the city, there arose a whirlwind which raised such a dust in the streets, they could not discern one another; the clouds grew thicker in the south-west, out of which broke forth terrible lightning and thunder-claps, with hailstones five inches about, dashing the windows in pieces; corn fields were destroyed; trees torn up by the roots; rabbits, birds, sheep, cows, and horses killed; the lightning ran upon the ground, many houses being fired by it, and more had been if an extraordinary rain had not quenched them: the hailstones were like flat pieces of ice.

Sir Richard Venile was a knight of Norfolk, who when the Scots and English were ready to give battle in the reign of King Edward III. a champion of great stature, called Turnbull, coming out of the Scots army, challenged any Englishman to meet him in single combat; Venile accepts of it, marching towards the champion, and meeting by the way a black mastiff dog, which waited on him, he with his sword cut him off at the loins, and after cut off the champion's head.

This county hath in it the city of Norwich; 31 hundreds, 28 market towns, 660 parishes. It elects 12 Parliament men.

NORTHAMPTON

Is a champion country, populous, and well furnished with noblemen, and gentlemen's houses, also with towns, and churches, so that in some places 20, and in other 30 steeples are seen at once. Northampton by a dreadful fire was lately almost destroyed, but since rebuilt with much advantage. There are seven churches within the walls, whereof Alhallows is the chief. At Boughton is a spring conceived to turn wood into stone: "The truth is (saith Dr. Fuller) it doth incrust any thing with stone; I have seen a skull brought thence to Sidney College in Cambridge, candied over with stone within and without, yet so as the bone remained entire in the middle, as by a branch made therein did appear." This skull was sent for by King Charles I. to satisfy his curiosity, and again returned to the College. The River Nen runs south of Peterborough; in the middle is a gulph so deep and cold, that in summer no swimmer is able to dive to the bottom; yet not frozen in winter. The spring whence the water bubbleth up keeping it from freezing.

Robert Braybrook, born in Northamptonshire, was Bishop of London, in the fourth of Richard II. 1381, and Chancellor of England; he died 1404, and was buried under a marble stone in St. Paul's London; the body of this Bishop was taken up firm as to skin, hair, joints, nails, &c. after the fatal fire 1666; for when the floor fell into St. Faith's this dead person was shaken out of his tomb, where he had lain 262 years: his body was exposed to view, many coming to see this curiosity. Elizabeth the daughter of Sir Richard Woodvil, was born at Gralton; she was widow to Sir John Gray, who lost his life for the house of Lancaster, and petitioned King Edward IV. to take off the sequestration from her jointure; beauty is a good solicitor, where youth is judge; the King enamoured of her, became a suitor for a night's lodging; but she modestly told him, that as she did account herself too mean to be his wife, so she thought herself too good to be his harlot. The King finding he could not prevail, resolves to marry her, though to the discontent of his council and mother; who alledged, that her being a widow might restrain him. The King replied, "Whereas you say, madam, that she is a widow, and hath already children; by God's blessed lady I am a bachelor, and have some too; and so each of us have a proof that neither of us is like to be barren;" so he married her; being the first of our Kings, since the conquest, that married his own subject: yet was his love divided among

three other mistresses, of whom he used to say, "the one was the fairest, the other the merriest, and the third was the holiest harlot in England, as being always at her beads in the chapel, when he sent for her to his bed."

His Queen lived to see the death of her husband, murder of her two sons, restraint of herself and the rest of her children; so that she had more of greatness than joy, height than happiness by marriage. She finished Queen's college in Cambridge.

At Fotheringay Castle was acted the tragedy of Mary Queen of Scots, mother to King James I. in the 29th year of Queen Elizabeth, 1582. She was the daughter and only lawful child of James V. succeeding in her cradle to the throne; she was promised in marriage to King Edward VI. of England, but by power of the Hamiltons, married to Francis II. King of France. About which time reformation for religion began in Scotland as well as in England; and at the preaching of Mr. John Knox, and other ministers, images, altars, &c, were defaced, and the nobility were told, that it pertained to them of their own authority to take away Idolatry, and by force reduce the prince to the prescript of laws: so the lords of Scotland opposed the Queen Dowager; and each sent aid, she from France, and the lords from England: but as it seemed a bad example for a prince to aid rebellious subjects, on the other side, it seemed no less than impiety, not to give aid to Protestants of the religion; but it seemed madness to suffer the French to be so near neighbours who pretended title to England. Upon such considerations it was resolved Queen Elizabeth should aid them, an army of 6000 foot and 1200 horse being sent under the Duke of Norfolk into Scotland, who joined with the Lords, where, after many light skirmishes, it ended in a peace between France and England, upon condition, that neither the King of France, nor the Queen of Scotland, should thenceforth use the arms of or titles of England or Ireland; and that both the English and French should depart out of Scotland, and a general pardon pass in Parliament for all that had been actors in those stirs. The peace was scarce concluded, when Francis the young King of France died, and left Mary Queen of Scots a widow. Soon after the commons humbly moved Queen Elizabeth to marry; who answered, "That she was already married to the Kingdom of England," and behold, said she, the pledge of my covenant with my husband, shewing her coronation ring, and if, said she, I keep myself to this husband, and take no other, yet I doubt not but God will send you as good kings as if they were born of me; since we see daily, that the issue of the best Princes do often degenerate. And for myself it

will be sufficient, that a marble stone declare that a Queen having reigned such a time, lived and died a virgin. She had many matches propounded, to whom she gave testimonies of princely favor, but never pledges of nuptial love.

About this time the Earl of Feria, who had married the daughter of Sir William Dormer, being denied leave of Queen Elizabeth for some of his wife's friends to live in England, grew so enraged, that he persuaded Pope Pius IV. to excommunicate her as an Heretic and usurper; but the Pope endeavouring gentleness, writ to her to return to the unity of the Catholic church; and offered to recall the sentence against her mother's marriage, confirm the book of common prayer in English, and permit the use of the sacrament in both kinds. But the Queen neither terrified with Feria's practices, not allured with the Pope's offers, according to her motto, *Semper Eadem*; always the same; resolved to maintain that religion which in her conscience she was persuaded to be most agreeable to the word of God, and the practice of the primitive church.

Queen Mary after the death of her husband went from France to Scotland, and sent letters to Queen Elizabeth offering to enter into a league with her, so she might by authority of Parliament be declared her successor, which was but her right. To which Queen Elizabeth answered, "That though she would no way derogate from her right, yet she would be loth to endanger her own security, and as it were to cover her own eyes with a grave-cloth while she was alive." The two Queens were both of great spirits: Mary doubting Elizabeth meant to frustrate her succession, and Elizabeth lest the Queen of Scots meant to disturb her possession, which created jealousies between them.

The Queen of Scots desiring to marry again, Queen Elizabeth proposed the Earl of Leicester to her; but she married to Lord Darnly, son to the Earl of Lenox. The next parliament again moved Queen Elizabeth to marry or declare her successor to the crown; some boldly arguing, "that princes were bound to design a successor, and that in not doing it, the Queen would shew herself no better than a patricide, and a destroyer of her country." The Queen was content to bear with words spoken in parliament, which out of it she would never have endured, and commanded 30 of each house to appear before her, to whom she said, "That she knew what danger hangeth over a prince's head, when a successor is once declared, that even children themselves, out of an hasty desire of bearing rule, had taken up arms against their own father, and how could better be expected from kindred? and though she had given them leave to debate the matter of succession,

she bid them beware not to be injurious to their prince's patience." After which they made no further motion to her. But now the love between the Queen of Scots and the Lord Darnly began to cool, and their unkindness was fomented by David Rizzio an Italian musician, the Queen's secretary, who was often private with her when the King might not be admitted: this indignity the lords made him sensible of, and Rizzio was killed in a chamber next the Queen, who being with child, was like, by the affright, to have miscarried. The Earl of Murray, base son to King James V. and base brother to the Queen, was the chief instigator of this murder; of which, when the King was sensible, he resolved to be revenged on Murray, who prevented it by causing the like to be done to him; for the King in a tempestuous night was strangled in his bed, and cast forth into the garden, and the house blown up with gunpowder. This murder common fame laid upon Morton, Murray, and their confederates. Morton and Murray laid it upon the Queen. The King thus murdered, the Queen was advised by them to marry Earl Bothwell, the man that acted the murder, but upon condition, that respect might be had to her younger son, and that Bothwell might be legally quitted from his former marriage, and also the King's murder; so it is plotted he should be brought to the bar, and Morton being his advocate, by the sentence of the judges he is acquitted; and by the consent of some of the nobility married to the Queen, being made Duke of Orkney; so that many thought the Queen was conscious of the murder, which was the thing the confederates aimed at by this marriage, who increased the suspicion, to have the better colour against her; so the same men that absolved Bothwell, and consented to the marriage, now take arms against her; forcing her husband to fly, and then seize upon the Queen, who clad in a homely garment, they thrust into prison in Lochleven. Queen Elizabeth hearing this, sends Sir Nicholas Throgmorton to expostulate the matter, alledging, "that the Queen was subject to no tribunal under Heaven: that no judge upon earth might call her in question, &c." But they opposing the peculiar right of that kingdom, used Buchanan's argument in his dialogue, "that in extraordinary cases, the people have power both to create and depose their Kings." They then persuade her to resign the kingdom, which if she refused, they threatened to question her for incontinency, the King's murder, and for Tyranny; so that through fear she resigned the kingdom to her son James, scarce 13 months old, who was five days after crowned King, and constituted Murray Viceroy during his minority; soon after some of Bothwell's servants were executed for the King's murder, who cleared the Queen from being concerned. The

Queen having been 11 months prisoner, made her escape, and raised forces, which being unexperienced were defeated by Murray; so to save herself she travelled 60 miles in one day, and contrary to the advice of her friends landed at Wikington in Cumberland, sending letters to Queen Elizabeth, that having escaped from her rebellious subjects, she was come into England, in hopes of her clemency, humbly desiring that she might be admitted into her presence. Queen Elizabeth sent her letters of comfort, promising her aid and defence according to the equity of her cause; but denied her access, since she was held guilty of many crimes; commanding her to be brought to Carlisle, as a place of more safety. Queen Mary desired to depart to some other country, but upon consultation, most were of opinion to have her detained as taken by right of war, and not dismissed till she had made satisfaction for assuming the title of England, and the death of Darnly her husband, who was born one of the Queen's subjects: after this were many conspiracies to set the Queen of Scots at liberty. The Pope sends out his bulls against Queen Elizabeth, freeing her subjects from their allegiance, and the Duke of Norfolk is beheaded upon her account. These contrivances seemed to endanger the life of Queen Elizabeth, and the invasion of England. To provide for her safety, a number of her subjects, the Earl of Leicester being chief, and others of all degrees, enter into an association; wherein they declare, "That since by her Majesty's life, we and all other subjects enjoy inestimable benefit, we do by this writing manifest our duty for the safety of our sovereign lady. And to that end, calling to witness Almighty God, voluntarily bind ourselves in the band of one firm and loyal society; and do hereby vow and promise by the Majesty of Almighty God, that with our whole bowers, lives and goods, and with our children and servants, we will faithfully serve, and humbly obey our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, against all earthly powers whatsoever, and will pursue by force of arms, and all other means of revenge, all manner of persons, who shall attempt against her royal person, &c. to the utter extermination of them, their counsellors, aiders and abettors. And if any such wicked attempt against her royal person, shall be taken in hand, and procured by any that shall pretend title to this crown, by the untimely death of her Majesty so wickedly procured (which God for his mercies sake forbid) we bind ourselves jointly and severally never to allow, accept, or favour any such pretended successor, by whom, or for whom any such detestable act shall be attempted or committed, as being unworthy of all government in any Christian realm or common-wealth; and we further vow and protest in the

presence of the eternal and everlasting God, to prosecute such persons to death, and to take the utmost revenge upon them that we can devise for their overthrow and extirpation; and for the corroboration of this our loyal band and association, we do confirm the contents hereof by our oaths, upon the Holy Evangelists, with this express condition, that no one of us shall for any respect of persons or causes, for fear or reward, separate ourselves from this association, or fail in the prosecution thereof during our lives, upon pain of being by the rest of us prosecuted as perjured persons, and publick enemies to God, our Queen, and native country. To which punishment and pains we do voluntarily submit ourselves. In witness of all which premises to be inviolably kept; we do to this writing put our hands and seals, and shall be ready to accept and admit any others hereafter into this society and association."

The Queen of Scots apprehending this association was designed for her destruction, offers to enter into it herself; to which Queen Elizabeth seemed inclining; but it was alledged, "that the Queen could be no longer in safety, if the Queen of Scots were at liberty. That the reformed religion lay a bleeding, if papists were admitted in the court walls, &c." In the succeeding parliament this association was universally approved, and enacted in this form; "That twenty four or more of the Queen's privy council, and peers of the realm, should be authorized under the great seal of England, to make inquiry of all such persons as shall attempt to invade the kingdom, or raise rebellion, or shall attempt any thing else against the Queen's person for whomsoever, and by whomsoever that layeth any claim to the crown of England, and that person for whom and by whom they shall attempt any such thing, shall be altogether incapable of the crown, &c." Next year a dangerous conspiracy was discovered against the Queen; for one John Savage, being by Dr. Gifford persuaded it was meritorious to take away the life of princes excommunicated, vowed to kill her: But to make the Queen and council secure, at the same time they wrote a book, exhorting the papists in England to attempt nothing against their prince, and to use only the christian weapons of tears, prayers, watching, and fasting. Babington and other gentlemen were in this plot, and the Queen of Scots' closet being broke open, a number of letters were found from foreign parts, offering her their service with 60 alphabets of private characters. Fourteen conspirators were executed for this plot; and consultations being held about the Queen of Scots, it was concluded to proceed against her by this law; and divers lords are authorized by the Queen's letters to

enquire and pass sentence on all such as raised rebellion, invaded the kingdom, or attempt any violence against the Queen; these went to Fotheringay castle, where Queen Mary was prisoner, and next day the Queen's letters were delivered her, which having with a settled countenance read, she said, "it is strange that the Queen should lay her commands upon me to hold up my hand at the bar, as though I were a subject, seeing I am an absolute Queen no less than herself; and especially that I should be tried by the English law: but it was plainly told her by the Chancellor and Treasurer, "That if she refused to answer to such crimes as should be objected, they would then proceed against her though she were absent." Being brought with much ado to consent, the commissioners sate in the presence chamber, and the Queen of Scots being come, the Chancellor said, "That the Queen had appointed these commissioners to hear what she could answer to the crimes laid to her charge," assuring her, "That nothing would more joy the Queen than to hear she had proved herself innocent." Upon which she rising up said, "That though being an absolute princess, she could not be compelled to appear before them: yet to manifest her innocence, she was content to do it." Then the commissioners opened her crimes, shewing, "That by the confessions of Babington, Ballard, Savage, with Nave and Curl her own secretaries, she consented to the invasion of England, and destruction of the Queen: she answered, "That letters might be counterfeited, her secretaries corrupted, and the rest, in hope of life, might be drawn to confessions which were not true." This she stood in peremptorily, that she never consented to attempt any thing against the Queen's person, though she did design her own delivery, and requested to be heard in full parliament, or before the Queen herself. But this prevailed not, for October 25, at the Star Chamber at Westminster the commissioners met again, and pronounced sentence against her, confirming it with their seals and subscriptions, "That after the first of June in the 27th year of Queen Elizabeth, divers matters were compassed and imagined in the kingdom, by A. Babington, and others, with the privy of Mary Queen of Scots, pretending title to the crown of England, tending to the hurt, death, and destruction of the royal person of our sovereign lady the Queen. In the next parliament, the peers unanimously presented a petition; That for the safety of the Queen, themselves and posterity, the sentence against Mary Queen of Scots, might according to law, be executed; minding her of God's judgments upon Saul for sparing King Agag, and upon Ahab for not putting King Benhadad to death." The House of Commons enforcing this request; the

Queen replied, "I protest my chief desire hath been, that for your security, and my own safety, some other way might be devised than what is now propounded; but since it is now evident and certain, that my safety without her destruction is in a most deplorable state, I am most grievously afflicted, that I who have pardoned so many rebels, have neglected so many treasons either by silence or connivance, should now at last exercise a cruelty upon a princess so nearly allied to me: as for your petition, I beseech you to rest on an answer without an answer: if I say, I will grant your petition, I shall happily say what I meant not: if I should say, I will not grant it, then I cast myself into destruction headlong, whose safety you so earnestly desire and that I know you in your wisdoms would not I should do." After this the Queen upon much solicitation, her fear prevailing, delivered secretary Davison's letters under her hand and seal, to get a commission under the great seal drawn upon occasion, who telling her it was ready, and the seal put to it, she rebuked him for his hastiness; yet Davison, though charged with secrecy, imparted the matter to some privy counsellors, and persuaded them the Queen commanded it should be put in execution. So Beal, clerk of the council, is sent down with letters without the Queen's knowledge, wherein the Earl of Shrewsbury, and others, were ordered to see her put to death according to law. And now comes the last act of this Queen's tragedy, for the Earls coming to Fotheringay, and reading their commission, she said, "that she thought that the Queen her sister would not have consented to her death, as not being subject to her laws, but since it was her pleasure, death should be welcome." Next morning, Feb. 8, 1587, she gets up early, and after her devotions, came forth in a linen veil, with an ivory crucifix in her hand; in the gallery the Earl met her, where Melvin her servant upon his knees deplored his misfortune, that he should be the messenger to carry this sad news to Scotland; to whom she said, "Do not lament, Melvin, thou shalt bye and bye see Mary Stewart freed from all her cares:" she then came to the scaffold at the upper end of the hall, where was a chair, a cushion, and a block, all covered with mourning; the Dean of Peterborough going to Prayers, she falling upon her knees, and holding up her crucifix, prayed with her servants, in Latin; she then kissed the crucifix, and signing herself with the cross, said, "As thy arms, O Christ, were spread forth upon the cross, so embrace me with the open arms of thy mercy, and forgive me my sins." The executioner asking her pardon, she forgave him; her women helping off her garments, and breaking forth into shrieks and cries, she kissed them,

signed them with the cross, and bid them leave lamenting, for now an end of her sorrows was at hand: then covering her face, and lying down on repeated that *domine speravi*, O Lord, have I never be con- At which words her body, her blows cut off. in the Cathedral but removed to her son King end had Mary in the 46th year the eighteenth ment in England. might have been had not been a haps even as a not been heir to England, since yours wanted from the fear sion.



MARY
QUEEN OF SCOTS.

the block, she psalm, "*In te* &c." "In thee, shaped, let me founded, &c." stretching forth head was at two She was buried at Peterborough, Westminster by James I. This Queen of Scots, of her age, and of her imprisonment. A lady who happy, if she queen, and per-queen, if she had the crown of all her endea-success, only of that succes-

This county hath 20 hundreds, 13 market towns, 326 parishes. It elects 9 parliament men.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

Abounds in liquorice, fish, fowl, corn, coals, water and grass: Nottingham, the principal town is seated on the side of a hill, having on one hand large meadows, by the river side, on the other hills with a gentle ascent: it is large and well built, and hath a spacious market place. Many strange vaults hewed out of the rock are seen here, those under the castle especially; one for the story of Christ's passion engraven on the walls by David King of the Scots while prisoner there: another wherein the Lord Mortimer was surprised by King

Edward III. still called Mortimer's Hole; with stairs and rooms artificially made out of the rocks: also in that hill are dwelling houses with winding stairs, windows, chimnies, upper and lower rooms, all out of the hard rock. The castle was strong, and kept by the Danes against the Mercians and West Saxons, who jointly besieged it; King Edward the Elder walled it about, some parts are yet remaining from the castle to the west-gate, and thence the foundation may be perceived to the north, where in the way ranging with the bank, stands a gate of stone: its circuit was 2220 paces. In the wars between King Stephen and Maud the Empress, these walls were thrown down by the Duke of Gloucester; the town also suffered much by fire, but is since increased in beauty and wealth. Robin Hood, if not by birth, yet by his chief abode, was this country man. This gallant, with little John and 100 stout fellows more, molested passengers, of whom our poet gives this character:

From wealthy abbots chests, and churls abundant store,
 What oftentimes he took, he shar'd among the poor;
 No lordly bishop came in lusty Robin's way,
 But that before he went, his pass to him must pay:
 The widow in distress he graciously reliev'd,
 And remedy'd the wrongs of many a virgin griev'd.

But who made him a judge, or gave him commission to take where it might be spared, and give where it wanted? his principal residence was in Sherwood Forest, though he had another haunt near the sea, in Yorkshire, where Robin Hood's Bay still retains his name; not that he was a pirate, but a land thief, and retired to these parts for security; one may wonder he escaped the hands of justice, dying in his bed: for the publishing a proclamation to apprehend him, he fell sick at a nunnery in Yorkshire, called Berkley's, and desiring to be let blood, was betrayed, and made bleed to death: it is said he was of noble blood, no less than an Earl; but having wasted his estate in riot, mere penury forced him to take this course, in which he was rather a merry than a mischievous chief, and may be said to be honestly dishonest, complimenting passengers out of their money, and never murdered any thing but deer; yea, this popular robber generally feasted the neighbours with his venison; he seldom hurt any man, never any woman, spared the poor, and made prey only of the rich; he lived in the reign of Richard I. Two ayrs of Lannards were found in Sherwood forest; these hawks are the natives of Saxony, and it seems being old, and

past flying at the game, were let loose, where meeting with Lanarets enlarged on the same terms, they bred together, and proved as extellent when managed, as any brought out of Germany.

In the last year of the reign of Queen Mary, 1568, a tempest of thunder, within a mile of Nottingham, beat down all the houses and churches in two towns; cast the bells into the church yards, and some webs of lead were thrown 400 feet off. The River Trent runs between the two towns, the water whereof, with the mud, was carried a quarter of a mile, and trees were pulled up by the roots; a child was taken out of a man's hand, and let fall 200 feet off, of which it died; five or six men were slain, and neither flesh nor skin perished; there fell hailstones 15 inches about.

This county hath eight hundreds, nine market towns, one hundred and sixty-eight parishes. It elects eight Parliament men.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE soil whereof is not very fruitful, abounds in fish, fowl, and sea-coal, and was formerly a Kingdom; several Kings reigned therein, among others Ethelburgh, who in 617, married his daughter to Edwin a Pagan, who being hated by King Ethelfride, fled to Redwald King of the East-Angles; he being corrupted by Ethelfride, intended to betray Edwin into his hands, of which he had notice by a friend, who persuaded him to fly and save himself, to whom Edwin said, "Whither shall I fly, that have already sought for shelter almost in all the provinces of the realm; and if I must needs be slain, I had rather the King should do it than some other unworthy person." Edwin being alone there appeared one to him, saith Bede, who said, "I know well the cause of thy heaviness, what wouldst thou give him who would deliver thee from this, and reconcile thee to Redwald again?" "I would, said Edwin, give him all that ever I had." "And what, said the other, if I make thee a mightier King than any of thy progenitors?" Edwin answered as before. Then said the other, "And what if I shew thee a better way of life than ever was shewed to any of thy ancestors, wilt thou obey my counsel?" "Yes, said Edwin, with all my heart;" the other, laying his hand on his head, said, "When this token happeneth to thee, then remember this time of tribulation, and the promise thou hast made, and the words I have said unto thee:" and so he vanished; presently after his friend came,

saying, "Be of good cheer, for now Redwald, who sought thy destruction, by the mediation of the Queen is mollified, and is resolved to keep promise with thee, and to protect thee whatever comes of it." Then Redwald raised an army in Edwin's quarrel, and gave battle to Ethelfride on the borders of Mercia, where Ethelfride was slain, and Edwin made King of Northumberland; yet he remained a Pagan, though Ethelburgh his Queen, and Paulinus a learned Bishop, persuaded him to embrace Christianity. Hereupon a new affliction fell upon him, for Quintilinus, and Kinegilsus, Kings of the West Saxons, envying him, hired a villain to murder him, who watching him when he had few with him, ran at him with an invenomed sword, but one of the servants interposing, received it through his own body, the King being wounded with the sword's point that came through: he lay sick of, but recovering, raised an army against those West Saxon Kings who sought his destruction, and promised, that if he obtained the victory, he would be baptized with 12 more of his family: then advancing against his enemies, he obtained the victory; yet the glory of the world so dazled his eyes, that he neglected his vow of being baptized, for though he heard Paulinus preach, and left his idolatrous service, yet he told him, that he could not suddenly leave the religion of his fore-fathers, nor be baptized but upon mature deliberation, and the advice of his council: Paulinus observing these difficulties, prayed to God on his behalf, till the vision of Edwin appeared to Paulinus, who came to the King, and laying his hand on his head, asked him, if he did not remember that token? who well remembering it, was so affected, that he was ready to fall down at Paulinus's feet; but he not suffering, said, "O! behold, O! King, you have vanquished your enemies, and obtained your kingdom, now perform your promise, which was to embrace the Christian Faith, and to be obedient to our Lord Christ." The King after consultation with his nobles, was himself, with many of his subjects, baptized by Paulinus, and all the idols were destroyed.

* During the heptarchy of the Saxons, there were two Kings in Northumberland, called Osterick and Laufride, who had been instructed in the christian religion by Paulinus; but after they came to kingly dignity, they renounced Christ, and returned to their idols; but as they forsook Christ, he forsook them, and within a year they were both slain by Cadwallar, King of the Britons. In 1276 happened a great rot by a sheep of incredible bigness brought out of Spain into Northumberland.

John Duns, called Scotus, was born at Emilden (others for his name say in Scotland) who being brought up in Merton College in Oxford, was learned in logic and the intricate divinity of those days, so that he was the Doctor, he to Paris, where at table, in residing with Charles of France, and self like a slothe King jesting *interest intertum*, "What there between a he merrily, yet answered *Mensa*, intimating that the Scot. Another King gave him and a little one ding him carve scholars who self being little the two great trencher, and little one; the said, in good



DUN SCOTUS.

you are no fair carver;" "Yes, Sir," said he, "for here (pointing to himself and the two great fishes) be two great ones and a little one; and so yonder (pointing to the scholars) are two great ones and one little one." He went from thence to Cologn, where he died miserably; for being taken with an apoplexy, he was too hastily buried; and after a time revived; and in vain calling for help, he knocked his head against the grave-stone, and dashed out his brains, as was discovered; whereupon these verses were made in Latin, thus Englished:

called the Subwent from thence as he was sitting pect of his learnthe Bald, King behaving him-venly scholar, asked him, *Quid Spotum & Sco-* difference is Scot and a Scot? confidently, an- "the table," the King was ther time the two large fishes, in a dish, bid-to two other were tall, him-Mr. John lays fishes on his own gives them the King smiling, faith, Mr. John,

All learning taught in human books and couch'd in holy writ,
Dun Scotus dark and doubtful made, by subtlety of Wit;
No marvel that to doubtful terms of life himself was brought,
For with a vile and subtle trick death on his body wrought:
Since he her stroke to kill outright would not vouchsafe,
So he, poor man, (a pitious case) was buried quick in grave.

In 1359, was an inundation at Newcastle-upon-Thyne, which brake down the town wall six perches in length, and near a place called Walkenew 120 persons were drowned. In 1402, Patrick Hepburn, a Scotsman, invaded Northumberland, loading his soldiers with prey and prisoners, but in his retreat, marching carelessly, he was met with by the Earl of Northumberland, and the flower of his army slain, and a multitude taken prisoners: to revenge this, A. Douglas with 20000 entered Northumberland, but at Hamilden the English under Henry Lord Piercy, named Hotspur, and George Earl of March, put them to flight, killing 10000, and took 5000 prisoners.

X In 1650, Machal Vivian, minister of Lesbury, being 110 years old, who for 40 years before could not read without spectacles, yet then sight was so renewed, that he could read the small print without; he had lost most of his teeth, and now new ones came; and having been long bald, his hair came again like a child's; he was before feeble, but now his strength increased, so as to walk some miles, to study much and preach twice every Lord's-day.

Northumberland is divided into six wards, hath six market towns, 460 parishes; it elects 8 parliament men.

OXFORDSHIRE.

THE air and fruitful soil whereof are both delicious, takes the name from the English Athens, since the time of the old Britons, the academy being translated from Creekland in Wiltshire to Oxford, as more beautiful in private houses, and publick buildings; Mathew Paris calls it the second school of Christendom, and the chief pillar of the catholick church; and in the council of Vienna it was ordained, that in Paris, Oxford, Bononia, and Salamanca, schools should be erected for the Hebrew, Greek, Arabick, and Chaldean tongues, and that Oxford should be the general university for England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. It flourished so in the reign of King Henry III. that 30000 students were therein resident: there are at present 17 colleges, 7 halls, and many collegiate churches, all stately buildings, with great endowment, noble libraries, and learned graduates of all professions; but the famous library is that founded by Sir Thomas Bodley, who began to furnish it with books about 1598, before which King Henry VIII. was a benefactor thereto, who employed persons in divers parts of the world to collect books, and from Constantinople of

the patriarch there, and received a ship laden with Arabick and Greek books. Afterwards it met with the liberality of the nobility, prelacy and gentry; the broke procured of Greek manuscripts out of Italy, and Archbishop Laud choice manuscripts most in the Orient and to complete accession of above 8000 books, being the library of antiquary Mr. John Selden, and by the benefactors it is so improved that now it is scarce exceeded by any library in the world: the theatre lately erected by Dr. Seldon late Archbishop of Canterbury, of building of as an excellent workmanship, painting and contrivance as any in Europe.



SIR T. BODLEY.

In 1036, Canute the Danish King died; and Harold his bastard brother stepped into the throne; for the nobility meeting at Oxford, the presence of the one outweighed the absence of the other, so he was crowned King at Oxford, by Elnuthus, Archbishop of Canterbury; who having the crown and scepter in his possession, swore he would not consecrate it for any king so long as any of Queen Emma's children were living: "for," said he, "Canutus committed them to my trust and protection, and to them will I give my faith and allegiance; this scepter and crown therefore I here lay upon this altar, neither do I obey or deliver them to you, but by apostolick authority, I require all bishops that none of them presume therewith to consecrate you for King; as for yourself you may, if you dare, usurp that which I have committed to God on this table. Yet these thundering words were allayed with golden promises of his future just government, though they were soon forgot; but he did not long enjoy his usurpation dying four years after, and was buried at Oxford.

tus the Danish
Hardicanute his

In 1258, a parliament was called at Oxford by Henry III. and the lords and bishops propounded to the King, "That he should faithfully observe the charter of liberties which he had so often sworn to; that none should be judges, but those who would judge according to right, without respect to poor or rich, &c." They then renewed their confederacy, "that neither for life nor death, nor love nor hate, they would not be drawn to relent, till they had cleared England, in which themselves and their forefathers were born, from upstarts and aliens, and hath procured laudable statutes;" yea, it was contrived by the bishops that 24 persons should have the administration of the kingdom, and appoint all officers, reserving only to the King the highest place in publick meetings. And to enforce these articles they provided strong forces, so that the King and Prince Edward were compelled to swear to these Oxford provisions for fear of perpetual imprisonment, the lords having published a proclamation, that whosoever resisted them should be put to death: then the peers and prelates took their oaths to be true to the King, and to stand to the trial of their peers; the lords required William de Valence the King's brother to deliver up a castle which he swearing he would not do, the Earl of Leicester said, "They would either have his castle or his head." The people being wholly theirs, so heightened the barons, that when Henry son to the King of Almain, refused to take the oath without his father's consent, they told him, that if his father did not hold with the baronage of England, he should not have a furrow of earth among them: this made all the French about the King run into France; yea, Richard King of the Romans, the King's brother coming to see him, the barons grew suspicious, and required him to take the following oath: "Hear all men I Richard Earl of Cornwall, swear upon the Holy Gospel, to be faithful and forward to reform with you the kingdom of England, by the council of wicked men too much deformed; and I will be an effectual coadjutor to expel the rebels and troublers of the realm out of the same: their oath will I observe upon pain to forfeit all the lands I have in England." These proceedings were too hot to hold; for the Earls of Leicester and Gloucester, two of the chief confederates, falling out, the King took the advantage, and soon recovered his authority. Hence observe that the Popish nobility, clergy, nor laity, have not at all times been so loyal to princes, as they pretend. A scholar of Oxford endeavouring to kill Henry III. at Woodstock, was taken, and pulled to pieces with wild horses.

In 1400, a conspiracy was contrived against King Henry IV. in the house of the Abbot of Westminster, a kind of book statesman, better

read in the politics of Aristotle than Solomon; remembering King Henry, when Earl of Derby, had said, "that princes had too little, and religious men too much;" and fearing lest being King, he should put his words into act, though it better to use preventing physic than to hazard curing it afterward; so he invited several discontented lords to his house, with Maudlin one of King Richard II.'s chaplains, and other knights and gentlemen, who communicating their disaffections against King Henry, resolved to take away his life, contriving to publish a solemn tournament to be held at Oxford, which the King was to be invited to honour with his presence, and while all were intent upon the sport, they would have murdered him. This plot was resolved on, oaths of secrecy, and indentures for performing it sealed. The justs are proclaimed, the King promised to come, secrecy on all hands is kept to the day; but by providence, as the Duke of Aumerle was riding to the Lords at Oxford, he in his way went to visit his father the Duke of York, and having in his bosom the indenture of conspiracy, his father at dinner chancing to spy it, asked what it was; his son answered it was nothing that any way concerned him; by St. George (saith the father) but I will see it, and snatching it from him read it, and then fiercely said, "I see traitor, idleness hath made thee so wanton and mutinous, that thou playest with thy faith and allegiance as children do with sticks, thou hast been already faithless to King Richard II. and now again and false to King Henry, and art never quiet; thou knowest that in open parliament I become a surety for thy allegiance both in body and goods, and can neither thy duty nor my desert restrain thee from seeking my destruction? in faith I will rather help forward thine;" and his horses being made ready, he with all speed rid to the King to Windsor; his son knowing the danger, rid another way, and came to the court before him, where locking the gates, and taking the keys from the porter, he went to the King, and falling on his knees, asked him pardon; who demanding for what offence, he discovered the whole plot; he had scarce done, when his father coming to the King, shewed the indenture of conspiracy; this amazed the King, who laying aside the justing in jest, takes care not to be justled out of his throne in earnest. The confederate lords at Oxford, hearing nothing of the Duke Aumerle, nor the King's coming, thought their treason was discovered; but their case being desperate, they apparel Magdalen, who was like King Richard II. in royal robes, and publish that he was escaped out of prison; dispatching messengers to require assistance from France, and then set forward against King Henry at

Windsor; but he being gone to London, they coming to Cirencester the bailiff with the townsmen beat their forces, killing the Duke of Surry and Earl of Saulisbury, and taking divers prisoners; above 30 lords, knights and gentlemen, with Magdalen the counterfeit King, being sent to Oxford, and there executed. About this time another treason was practised against King Henry's life, there being found in his bed an iron with three sharp spikes upright, that in lying down he might thrust himself upon them.

In the reign of King Henry VIII. 1541, one Mr. Mallory of Cambridge was convented for heresy before the bishops, and sent to Oxford there to recant, and carry a faggot, to the terror of the students; next Sunday he was brought to St. Mary's Church, many doctors, divines, and citizens being present; Dr. Smith preached the recantation sermon, and Mr. Mallory stood with his faggot; during sermon there was heard one crying fire! fire! in the street, who saw a chimney on fire in Allhollow's parish, and passing by, cried fire; this being heard in the church went from one to another, till it came to the doctors and the preacher himself, who amazed, looked up to the top of the church, which others seeing, look up also, then began some to cry out fire, fire; where, saith one; in the church, saith another; the church was scarce pronounced, when there was a great cry, the church is a fire, the church is a fire by hereticks. The confusion raised a dust, which seemed like smoak indeed; and the people were so afraid, that they began to run away; but such was the press, that the more they laboured, the less they could get out, sticking so fast in the door, that there was no moving; some ran to a wicket on the north, and to another door on the west, but there was such a throng, that with the force the great bar of iron was pulled out and broke, yet could not the door be opened; being past hope of getting out, they ran up and down, crying, the hereticks had conspired their death; one said he heard the fire, another he saw it, and another swore he felt the lead drop on his head; none made more noise than the doctor, who cried out in the pulpit, "These are the subtleties of the hereticks against me, Lord have mercy upon me, &c." The doctor from authority fell to intreaties, offering one 20 pounds, another his scarlet gown, if any would pull him out, though by the ears, one with a board covered his head against the scalding lead, which they feared more than the falling of the church; one broke the glass and got his head and one shoulder out, but stuck fast between the iron bars, and could move neither way; others stuck in the doors, over the heads of whom some got out: a boy on the top of the church door seeing a monk who was got upon the heads of men, with a white

cowl at his back, conveyed himself into it: the monk got out, but finding it heavy, and hearing a voice behind him, he was more afraid than while in the throng, believing the spirit which set the church on fire had flown into his cowl; so played the conjurer, saying, "In the name of God I command thee to declare what thou art behind my back:" "I am Bertram's boy," said the other, "I" said the monk, "adjure thee in the name of the inseparable Trinity, that thou wicked spirit do tell me who thou art;" "I am Bertram's boy," said he, "pray good master let me go."

The monk perceiving the matter, took the boy out, who ran away; mean time those without the church seeing all safe, made signs to them within to be quiet, but this increased their fear, supposing the church on fire, and that they were bid not to venture out, because of the dropping of the lead; at length the mistake was discovered, next day were numbers of bills set on the church doors to enquire for things lost; for in this hurry few but left something behind. The poor heretic who by this disturbance had not done his penance, performed it next day at St. Frideswides.

In 1553, at Middleton Stony, a woman brought forth a child with two perfect bodies from the navel upwards; the legs grew out at the midst where the bodies joined, and it had but one issue for the excrements of both; they were girls, and lived 18 days.

In 1577, the judges sitting at the assizes in Oxford, there suddenly arose a pestilent damp, so that all present died in 40 hours after, and the contagion went no farther; there died the Lord Chief Baron Bell, the sheriffs, several gentlemen, almost all the jury, and 300 others.

In 1650, Ann Green, a person unmarried, was executed for killing her bastard child at Oxford, after some hours her body being taken down for an anatomy, some heat was found in her, which was improved to a perfect recovery; some believed that it was a miraculous token of her innocence, she affirming before and after her execution, that the child fell from her into a vault without any design to destroy it; she lived many years after, was married and had 3 children.

The family of the Popes is considerable in this county, the predecessor being active under the Lord Cromwell, about dividing the abbey lands; whereby he made his fortune: here are many descendants from him of good estates, by the same token, that when King James I. came to the house of Sir Thomas Pope, his lady being lately delivered of a daughter, the babe was presented to the King with this paper of verses in her hand.

ADMIRABLE CURIOSITIES IN

See this little mistress here,
 Did never sit in Peter's chair,
 Neither a triple crown did wear,
 And yet she is a Pope.
 No benefice she ever sold,
 Nor did dispence with sins for gold,
 She hardly is a sev'nnight old,
 And yet she is a Pope.
 No King her feet did ever kiss,
 Or had from her worse looks than this,
 Nor did she ever hope
 To saintt one with a rope,
 And yet she is a Pope
 A Female Pope, you'll say a second Joan,
 No sure, she is a Pope Innocent or none.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

This county hath 14 hundreds, 15 market towns, 280 parishes, and elects 9 parliament men.

So named either from one Rutt, who rid round it in a day, or from the redness of the earth, which stains the wool of their sheep reddish. The air is good, the soil rich; woods are plenty, the hills stored with cattle, the vallies with springs, grain and pastures. This little county is 14 miles long, 12 broad, and 42 miles about. The ancient inhabitants were subdued by Publius Osterius, under the Emperor Claudius, and the Saxons made it part of the Mercian kingdom; it was bequeathed by Edward the Confessor to his Queen Edith, and after her decease to Westminster Abbey: the family of the Ferrers were here seated, whose badge in the shire-hall, is a large iron horseshoe.

Oakham is a market town, which the Harringtons enjoyed, with privilege, "that if any of noble birth came within the precinct of that lordship, they should forfeit a shoe from the horse whereon they rid, or else redeem it with a sum of money;" and many horseshoes are nailed on the shire-hall door, both ancient and new, whose names are stamped on them; and there was a suit of law against the Earl of Lincoln, who refused to pay the fine.

Little Jeffery was born at Oakham, his father was a proper man, and presented him at Burleigh in the Hill, to the Dutchess of Buckingham, being nine years old, and scarce three feet and a half high;

upon which Jeffery was heightened into silk and sattin, and had two tall men to attend him; he was proportionable, but though the least that ever England saw, yet a proper person to one in Italy of ripe age, not above a cubit high, and carried about in a parrot's cage. This Jeffery was presented in a cold baked pie to King Charles I. and lived in plenty at court, having a high mind in a low body, which made him not know himself nor his father, for which he was severely corrected: he was no coward, being a captain of horse in the King's army, and went over with the Queen to France; where being provoked by Mr. Crofts, who accounted him the object not of his anger but contempt, he shewed that a pistol is a pure leveller, for shooting Mr. Crofts he was thereupon imprisoned. The King's great porter in a mask at Whitehall, pulled him out of his pocket, to the surprize of the spectators; he was the least man of the least county in England; yet a late author says, there was one P. French, born in Oxfordshire, 36 years old, and a married woman; in all parts proportionable, and of good shape, wanting half an inch of a yard in height, which is lower than M. Maximus, or M. Tullius, each but two cubits high, yet knights of Rome but higher than Canopus the dwarf of Julia, neice to the Emperor Augustus, who was but two feet and a hand breadth high.

Rutland hath five hundreds, 2 market towns, 48 parishes, and elects two parliament men.

SHROPSHIRE

Produceth iron, pitcoal, &c. Shrewsbury for circuit, trade, and wealth surpasses Ludlow, the trade is chiefly in cloth and freezes.

In 1197, Robert of Shrewsbury was Bishop of Bangor, whom King John in war with Leoline, Prince of Wales, took prisoner, and enjoined to pay 300 hawks for his ransom, so in 1628, a nobleman was ransomed in the Isle of Rhees for a brace of greyhounds. The Bishop procured the hawks from Norway and Pembroke-shire. This Bishop ordered his body to be buried in the market place of Shrewsbury; either from his humility, or foresight, that in the fury of the wars between the English and Welsh, men would preserve their markets though their churches were destroyed.

In 1402, a conspiracy was hatched by the Pierceys, Earls of Northumberland and Worcester, with Henry Hotspur, against Henry IV. for denying to redeem their kinsman Mortimer from Glandour's

slavery, and also the benefit of such Scots prisoners as they had taken at Hamildon; so they procured Mortimer's delivery, and made a league with Owen Glendour, to divide the Kingdom between them, pursuant to an old prophecy, that the lyon, the dragon and the wolf, should divide the land among them; so all from the Severn west, to Trent south and east, to the Earl of March; all Wales and beyond Severn west, to be Owen Glendour's, and the remainder from Trent north, to be the Lord Piercey's. The King acquainted therewith, published by proclamation, that Mortimer Earl of March, had voluntarily caused himself to be taken prisoner, that the rebels might have some colour for their acting; so he had no reason to seek his release. The Pierceys assisted with some Scots, the Earl of Stafford, Archbishop of York and others, join with Owen Glendour, sending these following articles, in writing to King Henry; "That he had falsified his oath; swearing at his landing he came only to recover his own estate, and would not meddle with the King or crown; that traitorously he had taken arms against his Sovereign Lord King Richard II. imprisoned him, and caused him to be murdered, and that without any title or right he had procured himself to be crowned King; that ever since the murder of King Richard, he had unjustly kept the crown from his cousin Edmund Mortimer, to whom it belonged; that when no want compelled him, he had imposed taxes upon the people, of which they durst not complain; that no justice could be expected from him, since contrary to his coronation oath, he had by letters into divers countries, procured such parliament men to be chosen as might serve his turn." "And lastly, That whereas for affinities sake, he ought to have ransomed his cousin to the Earl of March from his loathsome imprisonment, he not only denied it, but falsly published, that he became a voluntary prisoner." "For which and many other causes they defiled Henry as a traitor and usurper, and vowed his destruction, and the restoring the Earl to his right." King Henry knew these articles were true, yet since this did not hinder him from seeking the crown when he had it not, it would less hinder him from keeping it now he had it; and if he were able, being a private man, to get it from a King; he was more able being King, to keep it from private men; and for objections of conscience, he would answer all by this, that if his title were good against King Richard by resigning, it was so against Mortimer by his swearing allegiance; so he raised an army, and having prevented the rebels from joining the Welch, he routed them in Battle-field, near Shrewsbury, though not for want of valour either in the Scots or Henry Hotspur, who was slain, and the Earl of

Worcester made prisoner with many more. On the King's part the Lord Stafford who that day had revolted to him, and nine others



OLD PARR.

knighted, that morning were slain with 1600 soldiers, but of the conspirators above 6000; the King was unhorsed by Douglas, who slew Sir William Blunt that day attired like the King, who being taken prisoner by the fall of his horse, was by the King set at liberty. In this battle Prince Henry, though wounded in the face with an arrow continued fighting. The King then sent Prince Henry into Wales, but Glendour's army forsook him; so that lurking in the woods he was famished. Many of his associates were taken and put to death. In 1552, the sweating sickness broke out in Shrewsbury and the North. In London in one week their died 800 persons; it took away men in 12 or 24 hours; the two sons of Christopher Brandon, Duke of Suffolk died thereof, one after the other, so that both died dukes. This disease followed the English wherever they were in foreign parts, but seized upon none of any other country. Thomas Parr was born at Winnington 1483; at 80 years he married his first wife, in 32 years had but two children by her; being 120 years old he married C. Milton, and got her with child, he lived 150 years; he was brought to London by the Earl of Arundel, he slept away most of his time, and was all hairy.

From head to heel, his body had all over,
A quick-set, thick-set natural hairy cover.

Change of air, diet, or the trouble of visitants hastened his end. He died November 15th, 1643; and was buried in the abbey church of Westminster.

Shropshire hath 15 hundreds, 15 market towns, 170 parishes; it elects 12 parliament men.

SOMERSETSHIRE

Abounds in cattle, cheese, lead, and is so fruitful in corn, that a single acre of land will serve a good family with a bushel of wheat every week for a year. This county hath three cities, Bath, Wells, and Bristol; the first named so from the hot baths, called the waters of the sun. It is recorded that Bladud, the son of Lud King of Britain, in the year of the world 3100, built this city, and conveyed virtue into these waters by magick art; that by necromancy he wrought wonders, and made himself wings, attempting to fly like Dedalus, but the devil forsook him in his journey, so that he broke

his neck. In this city there boil up three hot springs of black water, sending up vapours and a strong scent. These springs cure bodies of corrupt humours; their heat causing sweat: they are frequented almost for all diseases; the cross bath is the most temperate, having thirteen seats of stone inclosed within a wall; the second is hotter, and called the hot bath; adjoining is the spittle or lazer-house for poor diseased persons; the greatest is called the King's Bath, walled with thirty-two seats arched. This city hath walls, wherein are antique images, and Roman inscriptions, with a large cathedral.

The city of Wells is so called from the springs or wells that boil up there: for from St. Andrew's Well comes so much water as makes a swift brook: the cathedral is beautiful, but the frontispiece of the west excellent, rising to the top all of imagery in stone of antique fashion. Bristol hath the River Avon running through it, and had a double wall: it is beautiful with buildings publick and private, and hath sewers under ground for the conveyance of soil. In the city and suburbs are 26 churches. They carry all upon sleds: the water at the key ebbs and flows 40 feet. This city is well inhabited, the haven admitting ships under sail into its bosom.

King Arthur being murdered by Mordred in Cornwall, was thence carried to Glastonbury, and their buried in 542, and 600 years after was taken up by King Henry II. who being at Pembroke heard certain songs of the acts of King Arthur, sung by a poet, to his harp; and that he was buried in Glastonbury church-yard between two pillars there standing; the King causing the ground to be digged, seven feet deep was found a broad stone, whereon was fastened a leaden cross, on which in barbarous characters was written, "here lies King Arthur buried in the vale of Avelona;" and nine feet deeper, his body was found in the trunk of a tree, the bones were large, in his skull were ten wounds, one great and plain, his Queen Guenever, once a beauty, lay by him, her hair curiously plated, of gold colour, and whole till touched, but then fell to ashes.

In 1480, was a strange apparition in Somersetshire of 60 personages, all clothed in black, who continued some time and vanished; then another like number appeared in bright armour, and encountered one another and vanished. This was sworn before Sir George Norton by 4 men that saw it.

In 1596, December 6, being Sunday, in the cathedral of Wells during sermon, was a sudden darkness, with thunder and lightning, which threw people upon the ground, all the church seemed in a flame with a loathsome stink; the tempest over, and the people recovering

their senses, some were marked with strange figures on their bodies, and their garments not perished, neither were any marked who stood in the chancel.

In January, 1648, was seen a meteor in the air near Bristol, divers nights together, shooting out long fiery streams east and west. This was just before the death of King Charles I.

In August, 1655, a carpenter at Lennard, went to a fair at Lidford, and left his wife and children at home, at his return he found all his children murdered, the eldest being 9 years old, and put into a chest, supposed to be done by their own mother, who could not be found.

Wichey-Hole, on Mendid Hills, 2 miles from Wells, is an underground concavity, with spacious vaults and labyrinths, thus described by a learned eye-witness: "passing into it with lights, among other rarities we found the water which dropped from the roof of the rocks made some impression, but was not turned into stone, as appears by the shape, colour, and hardness, it being more clear than the rock, though doubtless it will turn to the same substance, and thereby the rock will be increased."

John Courcy, Baron of Stoke Courcy, subdued Ulster in Ireland, and was created Earl thereof. He was after surprized by Hugh Lacy, sent over into England, and imprisoned by King John in the Tower. A French castle was to have the title tried by combat before the Kings of England and France; Courcy of a lank body with strange eyes, is sent for out of the Tower to undertake the Frenchman, and because he was weakened by imprisonment, had a large allowance to recruit his strength. The Monsieur who was to fight with him, hearing how much he eat and drank, and guessing at his courage by his stomach, took him for a cannibal who would devour him, and was afraid to encounter him; the two Kings desirous to see a proof of Courcy's strength, caused a steel helmet to be laid before him; Courcy looking about sternly, as if intended to cut it with his eyes as well as his arms, cut the helmet in two at one blow, striking his sword so deep into the block, that none but himself could pull it out; being demanded why he looked so stern, he replied, "Had I failed of my purpose, I would have killed the two Kings, and all the rest in the place;" "words well spoken because well taken," saith Dr. Fuller, all being highly in good humour at that time. He died in France 1210.

This county hath 42 hundreds, 30 market towns, 185 parishes, and is in the diocese of Bath and Wells. It elects 18 parliament men, and gives the title of Duke to Charles Seymour, Earl of Bath to Bevil Greenville, and Bristol to John Digby.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Produces alabaster, pitcoal, fish. Stafford town was built by King Edward the Elder; Litchfield is greater and of more fame, an ancient city called Litchfield by Bede, that is the Field of Dead Bodies, from the Christians there martyred by Dioclesian. The town is low seated, and large, divided by a shallow water, and joined with two bridges with sluices; the south part consisting of divers streets: the cathedral is walled like a castle, having three spires of stone, and for elegant building yields to few in England.

In 1591, by a tempest, the shaft of the steeple was rent through the middle, the roof shattered, and many houses overthrown: in Cawckwood, about 300 trees were blown down, and 50 steeples.

In 1662, July 30th, was a great storm at Eardly, with thunder, and a strange noise in the air; there fell hail-stones as big as hen's eggs, some seven inches about, and lay on the ground a quarter of a yard thick; a man had his back and arms beat black and blue with the hail; the barley was struck out of the ears as if threshed, and it beat the corn to pieces, killed fowl, sheep, and lambs, the hail-stones tasted salt, like *sal prunella*, and kept long without wasting.

In 1669, a dark cloud appeared over Litchfield, containing a number of ant-flies, so thick that they darkened the sky, and fell down in abundance, filling the houses; the people were stung with them, yea, the horses so disturbed that they ran about as wild; the market people were forced to pack up and begone; others were driven out of the field from harvesting; thus they continued two or three hours, multitudes falling dead, and lying so thick in the streets that whole handfuls of them might be taken up, and the people threw them in heaps. The remainder took their flight north and molested other places. This was attested, saith Mr. Clark, by many eye-witnesses.

This county hath five hundreds, 18 market towns, 130 parishes, and in the diocese of Coventry and Litchfield; it elects 10 parliament men.

SUFFOLK

Abounds in corn and cloth; their cheese is sent into Germany, France and Spain; Ipswich is the chief town both for commerce and

building, formerly walled as by the ruins appear, but razed by the Danes, who in 990 plundered all the sea-coast, and laid the town desolate.

In 1189, near Orford, the fishermen took in their nets a fish like a man in all parts, which was kept six months, he spake not a word, eat all manner of meats; he was brought to church, but shewed no signs of devotion, at length he stole to sea, and was never seen after.

In 1216, Hugh de Bonas coming to aid King John with 6000 French, they were all cast away, to whom the King had granted Norfolk and Suffolk to inhabit.

Thomas Woolsey was born at Ipswich, of whose life and death I have given an account of in the history of the unfortunate court favourites of England, to which I refer the reader.

At Orford, by the sea side all of hard stone, where never grass grew, nor earth was seen; there sprung up such abundance of peas, that the poor gathered quarters, yet left some ripe, and some blossoming, which brought down the price of corn.

In 1470, while the minister was preaching at Bilborough, a tempest of lightning and thunder struck through the wall of the church, throwing down 10 persons, renting the wall up to the vestry, tearing the timber and steeple; the people lay half an hour before they recovered; a man and boy were found dead, and the rest miserably scorched.

Suffolk hath 22 hundreds, 29 market towns, 575 parishes; it elects 16 parliament men.

SURRY,

The borders whereof are fruitful, but the inward parts barren, it is full of genteel houses, it hath good box, fullers-earth, and corn; excellent tapestry was made at Mortlack. Kingston was once the seat of many kings, and so was Guilford formerly much larger.

The medical waters at Epsom are much frequented; found out in 1618, by one H. Wicker in a dry summer, who discovering water in the footing of some beast, suspected it to be urine, but was confuted by the clearness, so with his staff he digged a hole, and next day he found it running over with clear water, which the cattle would not drink for its mineral taste. It runs through veins of allum, and was at first used only for outward sores, but since drank for many diseases.

There is a river at the Swallow that sinketh into the earth, and riseth again two miles near Leatherhead: they say a goose was put in and came out again alive, though without feathers.

There is a vault near Hygate of fine sand, capable of 500 men, which was anciently the mansion of some great person, having several rooms: if natural, it curiously imitates art; if artificial, it lively represents nature.

King Edward III. that glorious conqueror, fell into his last sickness at Richmond; when he was drawing on, his concubine Alice Pierce, came and took the rings from his fingers leaving him gasping for breath; and the officers of the court risted him of whatever they could. A priest lamenting the King's misery, that amongst all his servants had none to assist him in his last moments, exhorted him to repent and implore the mercy of God; the King had lost his speech, but at these words uttered his mind imperfectly, and made signs of contrition, but his voice failing him in pronouncing the word Jesus, he yielded up the ghost.

In 1602, Queen Elizabeth retired to Richmond, and as a sad omen commanded the coronation ring to be filed off her finger, which she had never since taken off, it being so grown into the flesh as not to be drawn off without filing; the almonds of her ears swelled, her appetite failed, and she was very melancholy; a numbness seized her, and she would discourse with none but Dr. Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury. The Secretary and Admiral asked her about her successor; she answered, "My throne has been the throne of kings, I will have a king succeed me, and what king, but the King of Scots my nearest kinsman." The Archbishop exhorting her to think upon God; "That I do, (said she) my thoughts never wander from him." March 24th, 1602, she yielded up her soul to God. Her body was embalmed, and April 20th, it was buried at Westminster abbey, where was such sighing and weeping as the like hath scarce been known for the death of a sovereign; 1600 mourners were at her funeral.

Thomas Cromwell was born at Putney, of whose life and death I have given an account in the history of the unfortunate court favourites of England, to which I refer the reader.

Surry hath seven hundreds, seven market towns, besides Southwark, 140 parishes, and elects 14 parliament men.

SUSSEX

Soil is bad for travellers in the winter, being low and deep. The middle tract hath meadows and corn-fields, the sea coasts have fruitful

downs; the north is full of woods, one called Andredswald, being 120 miles long, where Sigebert King of the West Saxons was murdered by a boar.

Ohichester city is handsome, with walls and a little river on the west: it hath four gates, from which the streets cross each other, in the middle is a market house of stone with pillars. The cathedral is very neat, with an high spired stone steeple, first built by Cissa, King of the South Saxons, who kept his court in this city.

Mewes is populous, a mile in length, with six parish churches, where King Athelstane fixed a mint for coining money, and Wide Warren, Earl of Surry, founded a monastery, and built a strong castle, of which some ruins yet remain.

In 1282, King Edward I. sent a writ of *Quo Warranto* through England, requiring all men to shew their titles to their estates, which raised much money, till E. Warren successor to this will, drew out a rusty sword, and said, "He held his lands by that, and by that he would keep them till death;" which spoiled the King's further proceeding in that dangerous project.

In King Henry III's time the same John Earl of Warren, killed Zouch Allen Lord Chief Justice upon the bench in Westminster Hall, so much did he presume upon his favour with the King.

In the barons' wars with this King, the lords got Lewes castle, and fought a great battle near it, wherein the King had his horse shot under him, and was taken prisoner with his brother, and son Prince Edward.

In 1038, Harold putting to sea in a small boat from Boscham, his manor in Sussex, was driven upon the coast of Normandy, where Duke William detained him till he swore to make him King of England, if Edward the Confessor died childless; yet without regard to his oath, he placed himself upon the throne. Duke William hereupon landed at Pamsey, and revenged the purjury of Harold at battle with such severity, that there fell 67974 Englishmen that day, the conqueror thereby possessing the whole kingdom, and reigned 22 years, being victorious at home and abroad; but such is the vanity of earthly things, that sometimes great persons are not suffered to rest in their tombs, as appears in the following relation. No sooner had the soul of the victorious William the Conqueror left his body, but his corps was abandoned by his nobles, and his servants stripped him of all princely furniture; his naked body was left on the floor, his funeral was neglected, till one Harlwin a poor country knight, undertook to carry it to St. Stephen's church at Caen in Normandy, which that King had founded: at his entrance into Caen, the convent of monks

came forth to meet him, but at that instant happened a fire, and as his corps before, so now his hearse was forsaken, all running to quench the fire; then they return and carry the corps to church: the stone coffin being set down in the chancel, as the body was ready to be laid in, one Auselm alledged, that very place was the floor of his father's house, which this dead King had violently taken from him: "Therefore (said he) I challenge this ground, and in the name of God forbid, that the body of this oppressor and spoiler be covered with the earth of mine inheritance." So they were forced to compound with him for 100 pounds; nor was the body to be laid in that stone coffin, for it proved too little, so that pressing it down the belly burst with such an intolerable stink, that all their censors could not relieve them, so all hastened away, but only a monk or two to shuffle up the burial, which they hastily performed; yet was not this the last trouble it met with, for some years after, when Caen was taken by the French, his tomb was rifled, his bones thrown out, and some of them brought to England, so that considering his many troubles both in life, and after death, a mean man would hardly change fortunes with him. In his tomb was found a plate of brass with this epitaph.

He that the sturdy Normans rul'd, and o'er the English reign'd,
And stoutly won, and strongly kept what so he had obtain'd,
And did his valiant enemies by force bring under awe,
And made them under his command live subject to his law.
This great King Willam lieth here intomb'd in little grave,
So great a Lord, so small a house sufficeth him to have.

Sussex hath six rapes, wherein are 65 hundrds, 16 market towns, and 312 parishes, it elects 20 parliament men.

WARWICKSHIRE

Hath a good air and soil, and yields plenty of corn, especially the vale of the Red Horse, so called from the shape of a horse cut out of a red hill; also good malt, iron, wood, and wool; it hath many towns, the chief is Coventry, so called, *a Tribus Conventibus*, from the three convents that were therein. It has been fortified with walls, 13 gates and 18 towers; a little river runs through it, hath many fair houses, with two churches of rare workmanship. In the midst is the cross of stone, of curious architecture: the citizens having formerly

offended their Lord Leofrick, had their privileges seized on, and were oppressed with heavy taxes; but his wife the Lady Godina pitying their condition, interceded with her Lord with such importunity that at last he granted her desire, but upon such a condition as he thought she would never perform, which was to ride stark naked through Coventry at noon-day: though this was hard for a modest lady, yet she accepted his grant, stripping herself, let loose the large and beautiful locks of her hair, which so covered her naked body, that no part was uncivil to be seen, whereby she redeemed their liberties.

There is a tradition that this lady commanded all the people to keep their houses that day, and not to look out of their windows; which one presuming to do, was hanged or struck blind, and his effigies in a peeping posture is to be seen in a balcony near the cross to this day. Warwick is a town of commerce on the river Avon. On the south is a castle standing upon a rock, with a strong wall, a gate house, and three towers, called Caesar's tower, Guey's tower, and the Iron tower, in all which are fine lodgings, and a great bulwark; there are two fair churches in the town, and handsome houses; the poet thus describes the castle.

A place of strength and health; the same fort
 You would conceive a castle and a court;
 The orchards, gardens, rivers, and the air,
 May with the trenches, ramparts, walls compare;
 It seems no art, no force can intercept it,
 As if a lover built, a soldier kept it.

Alcester is an ancient market town, formerly much bigger, probably a garrison of the Romans; since in ploughing and digging, many ancient copper peices of money are now found; "One (saith Mr. Clark) of Vespasian, with Judia Capta, or Judia conquered, I have by me:" he proceeds: "When I was rector there 1638, my neighbour, whose house was next to the church-yard, digging a cellar about four feet deep, met with two urns or earthen pots, in the one was nothing but ashes, in the other were medals set edge long, as full as it could be thrust, they judging it to be only that copper money which they find so often about the town, set it carelessly upon the ground: the town knitters coming to see the work, picked out some of the pieces of this money; at last one brought a piece to me, which upon trial I found to be silver, and sent for the pot into my house, and being loath to break it, with a chisel I got all out of it; in the midst I found 16

pieces of gold, as bright as if lately put in, and 800 pieces of silver, yet no two alike, and the latest above 1400 years old; containing the history of the Roman Empire, from Julius Cæsar, to Constantine the Great, each of the silver pieces weighed seven pence, and each of the gold 15 or 16 shillings; I took a few of the silver, and one of the gold pieces, and sent the rest to Robert Lord Brook, Lord of the town. At Burnhill the precious stone astroites are found in great plenty, which being put in vinegar will move up and down till composed into a triangle. At Offchurch was the palace of Offa, the Mercian King.

At Lemington, though far from the sea, is a spring, of salt water, and at Newham, is a fountain whose waters are good against the stone, green wounds, imposthumes, and being drank with salt it loosens, but with sugar it binds the body; it was found out by Charles Daws in 1579, who having a great wound in his arm, was cured by washing it in this water; it turned wood into stone.

Near Warwick is Guy castle, where Guy Earl of Warwick, after many valiant exploits, led a hermit's life, and was buried in the chapel which remains to this day.

Michael Drayton, the poet, was born at Athelston, and died in 1621, who hath this epitaph in Westminster Abbey.

Do, pious marble, let thy readers know
What they, and what their children owe,
To Drayton's name, whose sacred dust,
We recommend unto thy trust:
Protect his memory, and preserve his story,
Retain a lasting monument of his glory;
And when the ruins shall desclaim,
To be the treasure of his name;
His name, that cannot fade, must be
An everlasting monument to thee.

This county hath five hundreds, fifteen market towns, 168 parishes, and elects six parliament men.

WESTMORELAND

Is a western moorish county, whence it hath its name. The soil is barren, and can hardly be made fruitful by industry. Kendal, the

*Two
words of
Shakespeare!*

chief town, hath a great trade, two broad and long streets cross each other; here are made excellent clothes, much esteemed. Verthehere and Appleby were famous in the time of the Romans, but since decayed. At a monastery near the river Loder, a spring ebbs and flows many times a day. It is thought some famous exploit hath been performed there, by the many huge stones like pyramids, some nine feet high, and thirteen feet thick, ranged on a line at an equal distance a mile together, which seem placed as a memorial, but of what action there is no account.

At Ambleside, near Winander Meer, a great water, there appears the ruins of a city, which by the British bricks and paved highways, seems a work of the Romans. The fortress, fenced with a ditch, was 132 ells long, and eight in breadth.

In the river Can, near Kendal, are two water-falls, where the waters ascend with great noise, from whence they prognosticate the weather; for that on the south sounds, they look for fair weather, but when that on the north, they expect rain.

Henry Curwin was born in this county, and bishop of Dublin. It is although many Ireland were no person suffered; and this is avouched Archbishop of Queen Mary's time, with a commission into Ireland, to command to proceed against the faggot, but by provocation coming in the house innkeeper, who it, took the commission the cloak-bag, knave of clubs it; some weeks



DR. USHER.

win was born in made Archlin, by Queen observable, that Protestants in imprisoned, yet suffered martyr-remarkable story by Dr. Usher, Armagh; "that sent a pursuit into power some per- with fire and the Protestants; dence this pursuit to Chester, lord of a protestant having notice of mission out of and put the in the room of after the pursuit

vant appeared before the lords of the council at Dublin, of whom B. Curwin was principal, where he produced a card instead of a

commission; for which affront they committed him to prison, as if done to deride them, where he lay four months; at last he got his enlargement, went to England, and getting his commission renewed, returns for Ireland; but before his arrival, is prevented by Queen Mary's death, and so the lives and liberties of many servants of God were preserved.

Westmoreland hath four wards, eight market-towns, twenty-six parishes, and elects four parliament men.

WILTSHIRE

Abounds in wood, sheep, &c. Salisbury is the chief city, it hath a stately cathedral with a high spired steeple on four pillars; the windows they reckon answer in number to the days, the pillars the hours, and the gates the twelve months of the year, according to the poet:

How many days in one whole year there be,
 So many windows in one church we see;
 So many marble pillars there appear,
 As there are hours throughout the fleeting year;
 So many gates as moons one year doth view:
 Strange tale to tell, yet not so strange as true.

The cloister on the south side, for largeness and workmanship, is inferior to none; on the other side is an high bell tower. It is well inhabited with plenty of all things, especially fish. It hath a stately market-place wherein stands their common-hall.

About six miles from Salisbury, upon the plain, is a monstrous work, for within the circuit of a pit or ditch, there are erected like a crown, certain mighty stones, some 20 feet high, and seven feet broad, upon the heads whereof, others like overthwart pieces, rest cross ways with tenons and mortises, so that the whole frame seems to hang, and is called Stone Henge.

Near Badmington are the giants caves, they are nine in number, some deeper than others, with two great long stones on both sides, and a broad one to cover them; these are thought to be either Roman, Danish, or Saxon works.

In 975, Queen Elfrida, having murdered King Edward, her son-in-law, to set up her own son, King Etheldred, to pacify his crying

blood, built the two monasteries of Amesbury and Whorwell, in Wiltshire and Hampshire, in one of which she died: but such foundations being built with blood, have felt the woe pronounced by the prophet, "That the stone in the wall shall cry, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it; woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city with iniquity."

In 1154, King Stephen seizing the Bishop of Salisbury's castle, a synod was called by the Pope's Legate, before which the King was summoned to answer for imprisoning bishops, and depriving them of their goods; the King by his attorney answered, "That he had not arrested him as a bishop but as a servant, who ought to make up his accounts about his employments: so not presuming to excommunicate the King without the Pope's leave, they fell at his feet, beseeching him to have pity on the church, and not make dissension between the kingdom and the priesthood; which shews the magnanimity of King Stephen in pulling down the spirits of all the prelates of that time. This rich Bishop of Salisbury being thrown out of his grandeur, was so grieved that he ran mad.

In 1275, King Edward I. called a parliament at Salisbury, without any church-men; and Marchain his treasurer acquainting him, that in the churches and religious houses there was much treasure, if it were lawful to take it, he made no scruple to seize it into his Exchequer; but finding he had displeased the clergy, he bid them ask what they would, who required the repeal of the statute of Mortmain, which hindered the people at their death from giving their estates to the church. The King answered, "That it was a statute made by the whole body of the realm, and therefore not in his power to repeal it." In another parliament, this King required the lords to go to the wars in Gascoign, who excusing themselves, the King, in a rage, threatened they should go, or he would give their lands to others that would; upon this, the Earl of Hereford, Lord High Constable, and the Earl of Norfolk, Lord High Marshal of England, declared, "That if the King went in person, they would attend him, otherwise not;" the King said they should go with any other. "I am not bound to do so," said the Earl Marshal, "neither will I go;" the King swore by God, he should go, or hang; "and I swear by the same oath," said the Earl, "I will neither go nor hang," and so without leave departs. The two Earls assemble many noblemen and 1500 soldiers, and stand on their guard; but the King being obliged to go to France, desires them, since they would not go, to do nothing prejudicial to himself or kingdom in his absence. Upon his return,

he confirmed the two great charters, which appeased the present disturbances.

In 1554, exemplary justice was done upon the Lord Stutton, a man much in favour with Queen Mary, because an earnest papist, who for murder was arraigned and condemned, and with four of his servants carried to Salisbury, and in the market-place hanged, he having only the favour of a silken halter.

"Not long since," saith Mr. Clark, "a soldier in Salisbury, in a tavern, drank a health to the Devil, adding; 'That if the Devil would not come and pledge him, he would not believe there was either God or Devil;'" his companions struck with horror, hastened out of the room, and presently after hearing a hideous noise, and smelling a stink, the vintner running up, found the window broken, the iron bar bowed in and bloody, but the man was never heard of after."

Wiltshire hath 29 hundreds, 23 market-towns, 304 parishes, and elects 35 parliament men.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Is rich and populous, the soil fertile, producing corn, cattle, wood, and abundance of apples and pears, of which they make great quantities of cyder and perry, pleasant and wholesome drink.

The city of Worcester is pleasantly seated on a gentle ascent by the river Severn, which hath a bridge with a tower, and is enriched by the trade of clothing. It is 1650 paces round the walls, with seven gates and five watch towers, and hath divers churches, besides the cathedral, which is an excellent building, adorned with the monument of King John, Prince Arthur, and divers other of the Beauchamps. This city was burnt, and most of the citizens slain by Hardicanute, in 1041, for killing the collectors of the Danish tribute, yet soon repaired. In 1113, the castle and cathedral were both burnt. In the troubles of King Stephen it was twice burnt; yet a new phoenix arose, and her buildings were more stately than before, especially the cathedral.

At a place called Droitwich, are the fountains of salt water (divided by a little brook of fresh water) of which by boiling, they make white salt. Edmund Bonner, alias Savage, was born in this county, his father was J. Savage, a rich priest in Cheshire, his mother was this priest's concubine; she was sent out of Cheshire to cover her shame, and laid down her burden at Emly, where this bonny bouncing babe

was born. He was in King Henry the eighth's time, made Doctor of the Laws, Arch-deacon of Leicester, Master of Arts, and Master of the Faculties, under Archbishop Cranmer, and employed in several embassies beyond sea; all this time Bonner was not Bonner, being meek, merciful, and a great man for the Lord Cromwell, as appears by some tart printed repartees betwixt him and S. Gardiner. Indeed he had a body and a half, but corpulency without cruelty is no sin, and in his old age was overgrown with fat, as Mr. Fox represents him; he was after Bishop of London, and under King Edward VI. being ordered to preach for the reformation, his faint and cold expressions manifested he had rather betray it, for which he was deprived; but being restored by Queen Mary, he caused the death of twice as many martyrs as all the bishops in England, justly occasioned the verses made upon him.

If one for shedding blood for bliss may hope,
Heaven's widest gate for Bonner standeth ope.

Nobody speaking to Bonner.

All call thee cruel, and the sponge of blood,
But, Bonner, I say thou art mild and good.

Under Queen Elizabeth, he was secured in the Marshalsea, where he lived ten years in soft durance, and full plenty, enjoying a great temporal estate by his father; wherein as he was kept from hurting of others, so it kept others from hurting him, being so universally odious, that he had been stoned in the streets if at liberty. He died in 1560, and was buried in Barking church-yard among thieves and murderers. But enough of him who burnt so many living temples of the Holy Ghost.

In 1576, William Lumley, a poor man in the parish of Emely, being imprisoned by a rich widow, and having a mare 22 years old, with foal, within three days after she foaled a female colt, which had an udder, out of which was milked the same day a pint of milk, and every day after it gave above three pints, to the great relief of his wife and children. That year great winds overturned trees, houses, steeples and barns; and in Bewdly Forest and Horton Wood above 1000 oaks were blown down.

Worcestershire hath seven hundreds, 11 market-towns, 152 parishes, and is in the diocese of Worcester; it elects nine parliament men.

YORKSHIRE

Is the greatest county in England: if one part be stony, sandy, and barren ground, another part is fruitful; if it be here bare of woods, there it hath three forests full of trees; if in one place it be moorish, another is full of beauty and variety. It is divided into the West, East, and North Ridings. It produceth corn, cattle, cloth, knives, and stockings. The city of York is ancient, and so esteemed that the Roman emperors kept their courts here; it is the second city in England, an ornament to all the north; large, rich, populous, and an archbishop's see; the river Ouse makes it as it were two cities, joined with a bridge: the west is encompassed with a wall and the river, together four square, with only one gate, from which a broad street reacheth to the bridge; it hath handsome houses, gardens, and pleasant fields behind; in the east the houses stand thick, and the streets are narrow; divided on the south-east by the river Fosse, which entering the city, hath a bridge; with houses ranged into a street, and runs into the Ouse, where the castle stood, now decayed. The cathedral is a stately fabric.

King William I. after he was settled in the kingdom, ordained that the prelates should exercise no temporal authority, yet in spiritual he rather raised them; for Aldred Archbishop of York being denied his suit, he in discontent offered to go away; but the King fearing his displeasure, fell at his feet, promising to grant it; and the nobles bidding the prelate to cause the King to rise, "Nay (said he) let him alone, let him find what it is to anger St. Peter." As we here see the pride of this prelate, so we may observe the falsehood of Stigand Archbishop of York, who would often swear he had not one penny upon earth, when under the earth he had hid great treasure. Another Bishop being accused of simony, and denying it, the cardinal before whom he was to answer, told him, "That to buy a Bishoprick was a sin against the Holy Ghost," and bid him say, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;" and the Bishop oft trying (saith our historian) could never say, "And to the Holy Ghost," but said it plainly when he was out of his Bishoprick.

In 1235, by a great dearth, many died for want, the rich being so cruelly covetous as not to relieve them: among others, William Gray Archbishop of York, had store of corn hoarded up for five years past, yet refused to relieve the poor; but lest it might be destroyed by the vermin, he delivered it to husbandmen to return as much new corn;

but by the judgement of God, when they came to open one of his sacks of corn nigh Rippon, there appeared over all the sheaves the heads of worms, serpents and toads, so they built a high wall round, and set on fire, lest the venomous creatures should poison the corn in other places.

In 1470, G. Negil, brother to the great Earl of Warwick, at his archbishop's palace at York, made a prodigious feast for the nobility, clergy, and nobility, wherein he spent 300 quarters of wheat, 330 tons of ale, 104 tons of wine, one pipe of spiced wine, 80 fat oxen, six wild bulls, 1004 sheep, 300 hogs, 3000 calves, 3000 geese, 2000 capons, 300 pigs, 100 peacocks, 200 cranes, 200 kids, 2000 chickens, 4000 pigeons, 4000 rabbits, 204 bittours, 4000 ducks, 400 herons, 200 pheasants, 500 partridges, 4000 woodcocks, 400 plovers, 100 curlews, 100 quails, 1000 egrets, 200 rees, above 400 bucks, does, and roe-bucks, 1056 hot venison pasties, 4000 cold venison pasties, 1000 dishes of jelly parted, 4000 dishes of jelly plain, 4000 cold custards, 2000 hot custards, 300 pikes, 300 breams, eight seales, four porpoises, and 400 tarts. At this feast the Earl of Warwick was steward, the Earl of Bedford treasurer, the Lord Hastings comptroller, with many other noble officers, 1000 servitors, 62 cooks, 515 scullions. But about seven years after, the King seized on the estate of this Archbishop, and sent him prisoner into France, where he was bound in chains, and died in great poverty; justice thus punishing his former prodigality.

The east riding of Yorkshire hath four hundreds, and eight market towns; the north 12 hundreds, 17 market towns; it is in the diocese of York, hath 563 parish churches, and elects 29 parliament men.

Richmond gives the title of Duke to C. Lenox; Leeds, of Duke to T. Osborn; Cleveland, that of Duchess to B. Villiers; Burlington, of Earl to Robert Boyle; Craven to W. Craven; Stafford to W. Wentworth.

WALES.

THIS Principality contains 13 counties, Anglesey, Brecknockshire, Cardigan, Caermarthen, Carnarvan, Denby, Flint, Glamorgan, Merioneth, Monmouth, Montgomery, Pembroke, and Radnor. Some derive it from Idwallo, son of Cadwaller, who with his British subjects made good the dangerous places of this country, and was first called King of Wales: this country is mountainous and barren, not able to maintain its people; their chief commodities are Welsh freeze and cottons; Llewellyn son of Griffin, the brother of David, the last Prince of Wales, of the race of Cadwallader, was slain by King Edward I. in 1282, whereby Wales was added to the crown of England, though it may not be for want of valour, since Henry II. in a letter to Eman, Emperor of Constantinople, says, "The whole Welsh nation is so adventurous, that they dare encounter naked with armed men, ready to spend their blood for their country, and pawn their lives for praise."

Anglesea is an island separate from the continent by the river Menia: in the fields are trees digged out black like ebony, and used to enlay cupboards, &c. some imagine the Romans cut them down, as being coverts of rebellion, others that they fell, and with their weight in those watery places buried themselves, and that their betumitious substance keeps them from putrefaction; this island yields such plenty of wheat that they call it the mother of Wales. It is said, that cloaks, hats, and staves, cast down from the top of an hill called Mounch Denny; or Cadier Arthur, which is above the clouds, in Brecknockshire, will never fall, but are with the wind blown up again, nor will any thing descend, save a stone, &c. and that the meer Lysavathan, near Brecknock, was once a fair city, till swallowed up by an earthquake, all the highways of this shire leading thither, and that after a frost, the ice of this lake breaks with a noise like thunder; that a fountain in Caermarthenshire ebbs and flows twice in 24 hours: in this county are strange vaults, supposed to be the retreats of people conquered in the wars.

Dr. Ferrar, Bishop of St. Davids, in the reign of Queen Mary, was examined by the Bishop of Winchester, and told that the Queen and

parliament had altered religion, and required him to embrace the same; who answered, that he had taken an oath never to consent that the Bishop of Rome should have any jurisdiction in this realm: the Bishop of Winchester called him froward fellow, and false knave, and returned him to prison; afterward Morgan, pretended Bishop of St. Davids, requiring him to subscribe several articles, which he refused, he read his sentence of condemnation, and at Caermarthen he was burnt; before his execution, one lamented for his painful death, who said, that if he saw him once stir or move in the pains of his burning, he should then give no credit to the doctrine he had taught; and he was as good as his word, standing so patiently in the flames that he never moved, holding up his stumps, till being dashed on the head with an halbert he fell down, and resigned his spirit.

At Bangor in Caernarvonshire was a monastery, in which were many religious monks, who lived by the labour of their hands; these monks went to Westchester, to pray for good success against the heathen Saxons, continuing three days in fasting and prayer: Ethelfred the Saxon King seeing them so fervent, asked what they were; and being told that they prayed for his enemies, he said, "Though they carry no weapons, yet they fight against us;" so after he had overcome the Britons, he fell upon the unarmed monks, and murdered 1100, only 50 escaping: this cruel King was killed by the christian King Edwin.

In a lake in Snowden-hill, is an island that seems to swim; they tell of fishes here, with but one eye, which yet men with two eyes could never behold. The high hill in Denbyshire, called Molienly, hath a spring of clear water on the top. In 1660 a great well near Chirk town was dried up. In Flintshire is St. Winifrid's well, or Holy-Well, famous for the cure of aches and lameness.

When King Richard II. came to Flint Castle, to Henry Duke of Lancaster; as he was going thence, they let loose a greyhound, as was usual when the King got on horseback, who used to leap and fawn upon the King, but now he leaped upon the Duke of Lancaster, who asked what he meant; "It is an unhappy omen to me, (said the King) but a fortunate one to you; for he acknowledges thee to be King, and that thou shalt reign in my stead;" which soon after came to pass.

In Glamorganshire is a chink in a rock, in which is heard a noise like smith's bellows, striking with the hammer, grinding iron tools, hissing of steel gads, yea, the noise of a fire in a furnace. At Newton there is a well, where at full sea you can scarce get a dish of water,

but at ebb a painful. On the top of Myndsay Margan, is a monument with a strange character, which (they say) if a man read he will die shortly after, meaning it is impossible to be read. A lake in Merionethshire contains 160 acres, which the river Dee runs through without mixing its waters. Pemble Meer, never swells with floods, but a small wind will make it mount above its banks. At Dageithy the walls are three miles high, that is, the mountains that surround it: men come into it over the water, but go out of it under the water, because they go in over a bridge; but the water falling from a rock, is conveyed in a trough, under which they pass. The steeple grows; since the bells (if they have more than one) hang in a yew-tree. There are more alehouses than houses; for tenements are divided into two or three tipling houses, and also barns without chimneys.

In 1661, about sun-set at Weston in Montgomeryshire, a great number of horsemen, about 400 paces off, were seen marching two a breast on the common, and were half an hour before the rear came up, seeming about 500; the spectators were amazed, thinking them round-heads going to release the prisoners at Montgomery, several ministers and gentlemen being in prison; on the top of the hill they had another full view of their horses of several colours; they marched in three companies, every division had two horse-colours; they appeared about an hundred yards from them: a man who was thatching a house all that day, said, he saw no soldiers march, neither was there any track of the horses: they deposed these particulars before the Lord Herbert. A woman coming from Bishops Castle over the same common, fell off her horse, being terrified with a blazing star, which she and six men saw, with a tail like an arrow, seeming just over their heads.

The Larsh near Chepstow, suffered loss in 1606, the Severn drowning many cattle, people and houses. Merlin prophesied, "that when a prince with a freckled face should pass over the river called Nant-phenearc, the Welsh should be conquered." King Henry II. who had a freckled face, passed over it; the Welsh remembering this prophecy submitted; it may be, the King chose to go over to facilitate his conquests.

In the reign of King Henry I. great part of Flanders was drowned, and a number of Flemings petitioned the King for some place to inhabit, who assigned them Pembrokeshire, where their posterity still continue. When King Henry II. at St. David's, discovered Ireland, in a bravadoe he said, "I, with my ships, am able to make a bridge thither, if it be no farther;" which being told to Murchard, King of Leinster, he asked if he did not say he would do it with the

help of God; and when it was told him no, he cheerfully said, "Then I fear him the less, who trusteth more to himself than the help of God." This king returning from Ireland, arrived at St. David's, where being told that the conqueror of Ireland returning that way, should die upon a stone called Letchlaver, near the church-yard, he before a multitude, passed over it, and said, "Now who will hereafter credit that liar Merlin."

In Radnor the snow lies long unmelted under the hanging rocks. Upon the sea shore in Wales, was found the body of Gawen, sister's son to Arthur, King of Britain; reported to be fourteen feet in length. In 1662, were seen above 100 porpoises near Newport.

In the 13 shires of Wales, are one chase, 13 forests, 35 parks, 203 rivers, 100 bridges, four cities, 55 market-towns, and 41 castles of old erection; four bishopricks, viz. St. Asaph, Bangor, St. David, and Landaff; and 1016 parish churches; it elects 30 parliament men.

SCOTLAND.

X THIS kingdom is divided into Highland and Lowland, the people of the Highlands on the west hath some civility, but those in the isles are barbarous; the Lowlands are like the English. The commodities are coarse cloaths, freeze, fish, hides, lead, oar, &c. The principal rivers are Forth, Clyde, and Tay, all navigable. There are two universities, St. Andrew's and Aberdeen. The nobility and gentry are affecters of learning; it is divided into 34 shires. In Edinburgh is the royal palace; the City consists principally of one street a mile long, into which run many lanes, the whole compass being three miles; the castle commands the town. Scotland was once inhabited by two populous nations, the Scots and Picts, till after long wars the Scots extinguished their kingdom and name. A fortification was drawn from Abercorn upon the Frith of Edinburgh to the Frith of Dumbriton on the west Sea, where Julius Agricola set the limits of the Roman empire. At this place began the great wood Caledonia, famous for white bulls, with manes like lions, so averse to mankind, that they abhorred whatever was handled or breathed on by them. The cattle are small, fish plentiful; the islands are the western, the Orkney, and the Shetlands, in number above 300; barnacles or solan geese are numerous and plentiful about the Bass, and bring thither a great number of fish, and such a quantity of sticks to build their nests, that the people are provided of fuel, and make a great gain of their feathers and oil. These geese some hold are bred of the leaves of a tree, others of moist rotten wood lying in the waters; but it is since found that they are hatched of an egg like other geese.

In Merton Lake part of the waters are frozen in winter, and part not. In the Lake of Lenox, 24 miles in compass, the fish are without fins; when there is a wind, this lake is tempestuous. There is a deaf stone 12 feet high, and 33 feet thick; and a musket shot off on one side cannot be heard on the other; these wonders are reported by Hector Boetius.

Near Falkirk remain the ruins of a town swallowed up by an earthquake, and a void place filled with water. The Lough Lomond turneth sticks into stones. Near Dysert in Fife by the seaside, on a

heath is plenty of bitumen. In Argyle are kine and red deer, wild upon the hills. Between the coasts of Cathness and Orkney is a dreadful gulf, by the meeting of nine contrary tides or currents, which so whirleth about, that if any ship comes within its reach, they must throw over a barrel, or the like, else the vessel will be swallowed up; and the mariners observe it as a custom.

In the north of Scotland (saith Speed) there be mountains of alabaster and marble. At the mouth of the river Forth, in the main sea, are high rocks out of whose top a spring runs. The snow lies all the year upon the hills in Ross.

A large piece of amber as big as a horse, was found upon the coast of Bucquan; in which county they say rats are never seen, and if brought thither, will not live. It is reported there is a stone found in Argyle, which if covered with straw or flax, will set it on fire.

King Sergius was addicted to harlots, and drove his wife to such poverty as to wait upon a noble lady; whereupon she slew her husband, and herself after.

The Castle of Edinburgh was called Maiden Castle, because the daughters of the Pictish Kings were kept there working with their needles till married.

Ethus King of the Scots was as swift as a greyhound, and called wing-footed, but unfit for government; when the Danes raged in England, they came to Coldingham nunnery, where Ebba the Prioress, with the nuns, cutting off their own noses and lips to preserve their virginity, these cruel heathens burnt their monastery and them therein. Malcolm King of Scots being informed of a conspiracy against his life, he dissembled it, till in hunting he took one of the conspirators aside, and challenged him as a traitor, adding, "Here is a fit place to do that manfully, which you intended by treachery; now if you have any valour, kill me honourably, and none being present you incur no danger." This speech so daunted him, that he fell at his feet, asked forgiveness; and proved after faithful and loyal. This King repealed that barbarous statute of King Eugenius, that when a man was married, his lord should lie with his bride the first night; allowing it to be redeemed at half a mark of silver, which is so to this day put into the leases the lords make to their vassals: this King besieged Alnwick Castle, an English knight carrying on his spear the keys of the castle, rid into the camp, who being brought to the King, and bowing his spear, as though to present him with the keys, ran him into the eye, left him dead, and by the swiftness of his horse escaped: hence some say came the family of the Pierceys: his Queen hearing of her

husband's and son's death, beseeching the Almighty she might not survive them, died three days after.

Kentigern Bishop of Glasgow was a man of rare piety and charity; a lady having lost a ring which her husband gave her, as she crossed the River Cluyel, her husband grew jealous as if she had bestowed it on a lover; so she went to Kentigern, intreating his help for the saving of her honour, who after his devotions went to the River, and spoke to one who was fishing to bring him the first Fish he caught; which he doing, the Ring was caught in the fish's mouth, and the bishop sent it to the Lady. This good bishop (saith Archbishop Spotswood) lived till he was 185 years old.

In 1550, the persecution waxing hot against the Protestants, many prodigies were observed; a Comet like a fiery broom flamed three months; great Rivers in Winter were dried up, and in summer swelled so high that divers Villages were drowned, and numbers of Cattle in the low ground carried into the sea. Whales of a huge bigness were cast up into the River Forth. Hailstones as big as Pidgeons eggs, destroyed Corn, and a fiery Dragon was seen flying near the earth, and vomitted out fire day and night a long time, so that the people were fain to watch continually, for fear they should be burnt.

The Queen Mother of Scotland having aid from France forced the protestants to retire toward the Highlands, whereupon she scoffingly said, "Where is now their God? my God is stronger than theirs, even in Fife." But in a few days 600 Protestants beat above 4000 French and Scots. This Queen when some English and Scotch attempting to take Leith by storm were slain, because the scaling ladders were too short, beholding the slaughter from Edinburgh Castle, she burst out into a laughter, saying, "Now will I go to Mass and praise God for what mine eyes have seen;" and when the French had stripped and laid the naked bodies along the walls, looked on them, she said, "Yonder are the fairest tapestries that ever mine eyes beheld, I wish that all the fields which are between Leith and this place were strewn with the same stuff." But her joy was short; for a fire in Leith burnt up her store-houses and provisions for her army, and she for grief fell sick and died.

IRELAND.

IT is said the Christian faith was preached here by St. Patrick, their tutular saint. In a little island in Loughderry, is a place called St. Patrick's Purgatory, and the people were made to believe, that St. Patrick, 400 years after Christ, had obtained the same by his prayers, to convince unbelievers of the immortality of the soul, and the torments of the wicked. In the reign of King James I. the Earl of Cork and the Lord Chancellor were sent to enquire into it, who found that this miraculous cave descending down to the bottom of hell, was a little cell digged out of the rock, without windows, so as the door shut it was dark, and so little that a tall man could not stand upright in it, and would hold only six or seven persons: he that went in was kept fasting and watching by the friars and told wonderful stories, so that being thoroughly affrighted, he came out amazed, and related strange things of his going under ground, &c. To prevent this delusion, the Lords Justices caused the friars to depart, and laid the hole open.

The Earl of Kildare being charged by King Henry VII. for burning the cathedral of Cassels, he confessed it to be true to the surprize of the council, wondering how he would justify it; "By Jesus Christ," saith he, "I would never have done it, if it had not been told me the Archbishop was within it;" and because the Archbishop was the chief accuser, the King laughed at the plainness of the man, to hear him alledge that for his excuse which did aggravate his crime.

Ireland is divided into four provinces, Munster, Leinster, Connaught, and Ulster, wherein are 33 counties. Dublin is the metropolis, seated on the river Liffy, in which is an university.

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